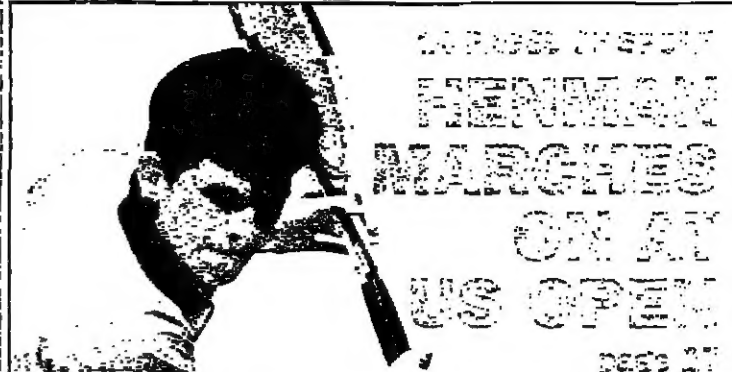




SWEET NEWS FOR DIETERS



Russia's fate hangs on Yeltsin's powers of persuasion

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN will meet his parliamentary opponents today for make-or-break talks that will determine whether Russia emerges from its political paralysis.

After intense haggling, Mr Yeltsin is expected to offer opposition leaders a power-sharing agreement to boost the authority of the Duma, the Communist-led lower

house of parliament. In return he will expect support for Viktor Chernomyrdin, the acting Prime Minister whose nomination will be put to the Duma again this afternoon after being overwhelmingly rejected last week.

Mr Chernomyrdin has announced a recovery plan that would involve the printing of roubles to pay off back debts and the imposition of an "economic dictatorship" in the new year to

bolster the national currency, whose value has fallen by two thirds in a month. But without parliamentary confirmation, he cannot form a government to implement his plan.

To entice deputies to support his candidate Mr Yeltsin will offer the Duma new powers, including the right to vet most cabinet appointments, a move that could bring both communists and nationalists into the Government. However, no

one is willing to predict the outcome of the struggle — especially as a similar deal collapsed at the last moment last week.

Genadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, has again insisted that his faction — the largest in parliament — will oppose Mr Chernomyrdin and he has put forward a number of other names, including Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow and Yegor Stroyev, Speaker of the upper house of parliament.

In spite of that, the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, whose party will back Mr Chernomyrdin, predicted that the nomination would eventually pass.

But Grigori Yavlinsky, the head of the liberal Yabloko movement opposed to both Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Yeltsin, said that the game was not over yet. "In Russia only an idiot would make predictions," he said, adding that the country's situation could only improve once

Mr Yeltsin was forced from power. "As a rule it is quite rare that he says something sensible."

The political fight in Moscow has exasperated Russians, who fear that the lack of leadership is plunging the country ever deeper into trouble. And the presidential hopeful Aleksandr Lebed gave a warning yesterday that if the crisis were not resolved within a week, the people would go out on the streets and "sweep away the pow-

ers-that-be with a single stroke".

Patriarch Aleksii II, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, also spoke for many when he urged politicians to stop their self-destructive power games. "The main thing is to keep public peace and accord," he said at a service in Moscow. "If we lose them, the consequences may be irreversible."

Ways of austerity, page 11
Bank write-off, page 48

Man United will get formal offer this week

BY RAYMOND SNOODY AND JILL SHERMAN

A FORMAL £575 million takeover offer for Manchester United by BSkyB is likely to be made before the end of this week. Negotiations were continuing last night, with two Manchester United directors believed to be arguing that the suggested price is too low for a unique asset.

Although a number of politicians were quick to express concern over the proposed takeover, both sides are confident that the deal would achieve regulatory approval.

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, said that an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading was possible because of the "very, very profound" consequences. "There are clear implications here that make me feel that this is not something that can just be treated as if it were just a normal takeover of one publicly quoted company by another," Mr Banks said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

Some Labour MPs were also angry about the idea of further power being handed to Rupert Murdoch, and served warning that they would campaign hard against the deal.

Manchester United made profits of £27.6 million in the past year. The exclusive rights to show FA Cup Premier League games are at the heart of BSkyB's business. The existing deal runs out in 2001 and with 200-channel digital television systems coming on stream the FA Premier League clubs could launch their own football channels, including electronic pay-per-view season tickets.

Ownership of Manchester United would guarantee BSkyB some of the most attractive games and deals could also be done with other clubs. However, some Manchester United direc-

tors believe that now is the wrong time to sell because in two or three years time the club could be even more valuable when digital is more fully established and the agreement with BSkyB runs out.

Downing Street reacted cautiously to news of the negotiations, saying that the Prime Minister agreed that there were serious competition implications. "We would look very carefully at the competition issues that might arise and the normal procedures will be followed."

The Department of Trade and Industry said that the details of the case would be closely examined by ministers and officials but refused to comment any further. However, government sources suggested that a referral was possible because of claims that the deal could be "anti-competitive".

Joe Ashton, Labour chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on association football, said: "If Parliament had been sitting there would have been more than 100 MPs complaining very strongly about unfair competition."

It is also likely that Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner who has in the past expressed concern about the impact of exclusive sports rights deals, will want to look at the acquisition of a leading football team by a leading pay-television broadcaster.

Relationships between media groups and leading sports clubs have

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Emily Watson yesterday at the premiere of *Hilary and Jackie* at the Venice Film Festival

Actress suffers for art of du Pré

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN VENICE

THE actress who plays Jacqueline du Pré in a new film about the cellist practised so hard to perfect her technique on the instrument that her fingers bled.

But despite playing 15 different tunes in close-up on camera, Emily Watson never learnt to read music and instead developed her own code, spending nine hours a day in the rehearsal room.

Hilary and Jackie, which focuses on the relationship of du Pré and her sister, received its premiere yesterday at the Venice Film Festival.

The makers are now waiting to see if the cellist's husband, the pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, will use privacy laws to block the film in France.

Barenboim, whom Miss du Pré married in 1967, has refused to comment on the book or the film. But he told *The Times*: "Couldn't they have waited until I was dead?"

Du Pré died in 1987 at the age of 42 from multiple sclerosis. Ms Watson, who took up the cello briefly as a 14-year-old, watched film of du Pré's performances. "She was so in tune with the music, she played with her whole body," the actress said.

RICHARD BRANSON

Tears as I sold Virgin Music

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Swissair jet's 'black box' found

Investigators have located the flight data and voice recorders of Swiss Air Flight 111 which went down off the coast of Nova Scotia last week.

The box containing the two recorders emitted a "ping" sound that was picked up by the navy submarine HMCS *Okanagan* in 190ft of water about five miles off the village of Peggy's Cove.

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Blairite group seeks vote on Do we want King Charles?

BY OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOWNING Street sought to distance itself last night from proposals for a radical shake-up of the monarchy drawn up by an influential new Labour think-tank.

The report from Demos, founded by Geoff Mulgan, a member of the No 10 Policy Unit, calls for the Queen to be stripped of her political powers and for the public to be allowed to vote on whether the Prince of Wales should inherit the Throne.

The document coincides with a MORI poll for Demos and *The Independent* on Sunday which showed that 60 per cent of people thought the monarchy should be modernised and that 49 per cent believed the Queen should give up her right to dissolve Parliament.

It also came as the Treasury confirmed that it will open negotiations next year with Buckingham Palace for a review of royal finances. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, believes the present 7.5 per cent annual increase is too generous and wants to bring it

down to the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

The Demos report, *Modernising the Monarchy*, does not propose the abolition of the monarchy, but recommends that on the death of the Sovereign there should be a referendum on whether the heir should succeed to the Throne. If the answer were no, there should be a second vote on whether the monarchy should be abolished.

The Speaker of the House of Commons would take over responsibility for appointing the Prime Minister and the

formal dissolution of Parliament. Royal Assent for Parliamentary legislation would also be replaced by a certificate signed by the Speaker.

In addition, the paper proposes that the Church should be separated from the monarchy, that the Royal Family should use state schools and NHS hospitals.

However, Downing Street said it did not agree with the proposals and was happy with the present monarchy. "The report has nothing to do with the Government and doesn't reflect Government views," a spokesman said.

Mark Leonard, the report's co-author, said that the paper was written to influence the Royal Family rather than the Government, though he hoped both would study it seriously.

Buckingham Palace called the report "another contribution to the general constitutional debate", but said it was a matter for Parliament rather than the Royal Family.

Tim Haines, page 20

Patten has eyes on Westminster again

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS PATTEN declared yesterday that he would be open to offers to make a comeback as an MP next year.

The former Governor of Hong Kong made clear that he would be busy reforming the Royal Ulster Constabulary for the next nine months, but that he did not rule out a return to Parliament if a by-election arose later next year.

Asked on BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost programme what he would do if a constituency whose MP was about to stand down offered him a seat with a 20,000 majority, Mr Patten said: "I'd say it is extremely kind of you to have called, please call back next July ... or a bit later."

The pro-European former Tory chairman has been tipped as Mayor of London and as a European commissioner, but in a newspaper interview this weekend he said: "I'm certainly not too grand to be a constituency MP." And he admitted that he had missed the political argument at Westminster since losing his seat in 1992.

He insisted that he had not

made up his mind what he would do next, but would consider another job in public service "because those are the most interesting jobs around" — although he conceded this was more difficult with his party was in opposition.

He praised William Hague for his performances in the Commons and said that he was right to make party reforms as his priority. But he gave a warning that continual party disunity over Europe would play into Tony Blair's hands.

He suggested that Mr Hague should follow Harold Wilson's example on the Common Market in the 1970s by allowing party members to campaign as they wished in a public referendum on a single currency, provided they backed party policy at the general election.

Mr Patten's comments on Europe coincided with reports that Mr Hague is planning a snap referendum of party members on the single currency if pro-European MPs try to cause trouble at the Tory conference next month.

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Earl suspended by Tory party after drug deal claims

Film and scooter-loving peer alleged to have arranged cocaine sale during House of Lords debate, reports Daniel McGrory

TORY peers are threatening to expel the Earl of Hardwicke from their party after allegations that he dealt drugs inside the Houses of Parliament.

He is alleged to have arranged the sale of cocaine costing £320 in the Lords when peers were recalled last week to debate anti-terrorism legislation after the Omagh bomb.

Party leaders moved swiftly yesterday to deal with the accusation, saying that Lord Hardwicke would be the first to be dealt with by the party's new Ethics and Integrity Committee, created by William Hague to rid the Tories of sleaze. The committee, which has the power to throw Lord Hardwicke out of the party, will meet later this week and he will be asked to go before the committee.

Viscount Cranborne, Tory Leader of the Lords, spoke to Lord Hardwicke yesterday and decided he should have the whip suspended immediately. One senior party source said: "Viscount Cranborne gave him a chance to defend himself and clear his name. You can take it that he hasn't justified his position at all and such behaviour will not be tolerated."

"He can expect no sympathy from anyone in this party if these allegations are proven and he will be expelled, the ultimate sanction."

Lord Hardwicke was the youngest hereditary peer when he took his seat five years ago at 22, but has boasted that he takes little part in



Coat of arms of the Earl of Hardwicke, created 1754

Lords business. He is alleged to have used the Palace of Westminster as a venue to broker drug deals and was quoted as telling an undercover reporter that he and his business partner were "the best dealers in the world".

Leading Conservatives recognise that the damaging publicity surrounding Lord Hardwicke does little for their arguments to retain hereditary peers. "The public will get the view that hereditary peers are just wasters and this is how they behave so why not get rid of the lot of them," the source said. "He has damaged his party."

A Conservative Party spokesman said last night: "The party has a

robust anti-drugs policy and we condemn drug-dealing in all forms. We are immediately investigating this matter and swift action will be taken."

Joseph Phillip Sebastian Yorke was two years old when his father, Viscount Royston, died and a year later he inherited the peerage from his grandfather, becoming the 10th earl. He confesses to having no interest in politics and only agreed to take his seat in the Lords at the request of his cousin, Lord Hesketh, a former Tory Chief Whip.

After allegedly discussing a drug deal with an undercover reporter as fellow peers walked into the Chamber to join the anti-terrorism debate, Lord Hardwicke said that he could not be bothered to vote on the Bill.

Described as "arrogant and aloof", he has made only one speech in the Lords. It was about the British film industry and he said that he "hated" the experience because he found public speaking "boring".

Lord Hardwicke is known as "Lord Scooty" because of his passion for motor scooters. With a friend, Stefan Thwaites, he runs a business in South London selling the machines. Both men were alleged to be involved in drug dealing.

His only role within the Tory ranks is to sit on two all-party committees — on film and on motor scooters — though he rarely bothers to attend meetings. He does, though, appear at the Lords twice a



The 10th earl on the town with a friend. He lives in a modest home and runs a motor-scooter shop

week — so that he can collect £140 attendance fees, he said.

His family once owned extensive lands in Cambridgeshire but the 5th earl gambled away the family fortune. Lord Hardwicke lives in a modest flat in West London. He was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Police said that they had not received a formal complaint so they had not started an investigation. The *News of the World* yesterday alleged that Lord Hardwicke had sold six grams of cocaine and had boasted of using the drug himself. The 10th earl was brought up on

Mustique, the Caribbean island beloved of Princess Margaret, after his mother scandalised London society by running off there in 1975 to live with a bar owner. He was sent to Marlborough and worked in the record industry and briefly as a political lobbyist.

Riviera resort plan for Forth coastline

By Lewis Smith

MORE than 4,000 jobs could be created if a venture to turn a Scottish industrial wasteland into a Mediterranean-style coastal resort goes ahead. Dilapidated warehouses and disused factories along the shores of the Firth of Forth would be torn down and replaced with waterfront shops, houses, hotels and leisure facilities.

A network of boardwalks would link settlements along the shore and contractors would create beaches with millions of tons of sand pumped from the sea bed. Elizabeth Maginnis, a Granton councillor and one of the leading forces behind the scheme, said the inspiration came from seeing the spectacular redevelopment of Barcelona's waterfront.

"When I was out in Barcelona 12 years ago, one of the features of the trip was a tour around Barcelona harbour and it was just as bad as Leith docks," she said.

"Barcelona then got a European grant to upgrade its harbour and since then it has gone from strength to strength. This appealed very strongly to me and I had a vision for Edinburgh's waterfront, to create a new quarter and give it a distinct character, like Barcelona."

"We want a place where people can visit and enjoy themselves. The coastline is virtually derelict at the moment but within the next 15 to 20 years, the regeneration will have helped to give our shores their own distinctive appeal. This will provide a fantastic opportunity to transform north Edinburgh into a thriving, cosmopolitan community."

Plans have been drawn up by a development partnership of Edinburgh City Council, Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise, Scottish Homes, Forth Ports and private sector bodies.

Backers of the scheme say redeveloping the coastline from Cramond to Portobello would bring more than 4,000 jobs to the capital, providing a major economic boost for the city. Details of the proposed regeneration are due to be unveiled by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, later this month.

It is believed tens of millions of pounds have been earmarked for the scheme while £35 million has already been spent buying up land.

Malcolm Chisholm, MP for Leith, said the most important aspect of the plan was the number of jobs it would create. He said: "People recognise that this scheme is a great asset and the input of the local community has been at the forefront in drawing up plans for the developments."

"This is a very exciting project which will provide a tremendous boost for the Edinburgh economy."

Murdered girl's stepfather killed

By A Correspondent

THE family of a seven-year-old girl who was found strangled in woods near her home in 1993 faced further turmoil after her uncle was charged with the murder of her stepfather.

Barry Queripel, 33, died at Royal Berkshire hospital in Reading after suffering severe chest wounds. His younger brother Andrew, 32, has been charged with his murder and is due to appear before magistrates in Bracknell today.

It is the second killing within the family in just five years. In 1993 Barry Queripel's stepdaughter, Stacey, was found strangled in bushes in South Hill Park, Bracknell. Police initially thought she had choked on the necklace she was wearing, but later opened a murder inquiry.

Her mother, Gilliane Queripel, was arrested twice during the inquiry, and at one time held in police custody for several days. She was later released without charge. The file on Stacey's murder has never been closed and the



Stacey Queripel: murder inquiry is still open

coroner who conducted the inquest into her death recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

Yesterday a Thames Valley Police spokesman said that Barry Queripel had been drinking and playing pool at a social club in Bracknell on Friday night. Officers were called early on Saturday morning after reports of a fight during which Mr Queripel was stabbed in the chest. He was taken to hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.

Man was tortured then shot

A MAN who was shot dead in his living room by masked gunmen in front of his partner and her 15-year-old son was first tortured with a knife, it was disclosed yesterday.

Lee Harris, 30, who is believed to have been targeted by the gang of three men over a relationship with a woman, was repeatedly slashed before being shot six times at point-blank range.

The killing at his home on the Longmead Estate in Epsom, Surrey, on Friday night followed a warning to a cousin of the victim only hours earlier that he would die.

The 18-year-old cousin, who would not disclose her name, said: "This guy came up to me and told me that Lee was going to die. He had a lot of enemies, so I didn't take it too seriously."

A police spokesman said: "We are still searching for a motive to this attack."

French lorry drivers threaten more chaos on Europe's roads

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND LEWIS SMITH

DRIVERS have been warned by their French counterparts on continental roads as French lorry drivers link up for the first time with their German, Spanish and Italian counterparts to blockade motorways, bridges and ports tomorrow.

The 24-hour drivers' strike, now an annual ordeal, is due to start at midnight tonight. It is being co-ordinated across Europe, but is most likely to affect traffic in France, with road blocks expected at Channel ports and French frontiers with Germany, Spain and Italy.

The Road Haulage Association has warned its members to anticipate lengthy delays in France, particularly at ports such as Calais where demonstrators are expected to erect "filter blockades", slowing traffic to a crawl.

Cars should be allowed through but are almost certain to be caught in long queues of traffic leading up to the filter. Lorry drivers face even longer

delays as they are pulled aside by their French counterparts anxious to explain their cause. The length of each stoppage will vary at each filter.

The Department of Transport said yesterday it had been talking to French officials to express concerns about the action. A spokesman warned there were likely to be Governmental representations to the French authorities if British drivers suffer financial losses through the dispute.

Kent police were gearing up yesterday to cope with the expected queues of lorries trailing out of Dover. Operation Stack, which has been used in previous disputes, is designed to ensure thousands of lorries waiting for ferries to France are parked in an organised queue along the M20.

Inspector Caroline Riddle of Kent police said it was impossible to predict how badly the dispute would hit British drivers and holiday-makers. "Inevitably, there are going to be

delays on this side of the Channel," she said.

Richard Bird, of the RAC, said drivers travelling to France should listen to media announcements before setting off. P&O Stena, the ferry company, is watching to see how the dispute develops before issuing advice to customers or rerouting services. A spokeswoman said it may be best to avoid areas likely to be affected by strikers.

The French drivers complain that employers have not honoured many concessions won after strikes in 1996 and 1997 almost paralysed the French road system. The truckers are demanding a limit of a 48-hour work week, tighter regulation of working hours and a European directive "taking account of demands in the road haulage sector".

British haulage groups have written to the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and the European Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, urging

new legislation that would require national governments to keep major routes open in the event of strikes.

"We have heard promises since 1996," Daniel Hodges, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association said. "This strike is a flexing of muscles by the French lorry drivers, but if the demands are not met, then action on a concerted scale is inevitable."

British lorry drivers suffered huge losses from the repeated strikes in France, and the promised compensation of at least £1 million, in many cases dating back to November 1996, has still not been paid. The French authorities did not break the barricades in the earlier disputes, and British haulage groups argue that if national governments fail to keep key transport arteries open they should be fined and the proceeds used to compensate hauliers.

The strike is supported by all the major French unions.

Shetland women rowers beat the Royal Navy's finest men

Dominic Kennedy reports on the result of a naval challenge to avenge a famous defeat in a 1905 race

WHEN the rugged women of the Shetland Islands challenged the men of the Royal Navy to a rowing race, history suggested that the ladies' team would be favourites.

Many islanders have never forgotten the glorious day in 1905 when a crew of women from the island of Trondra beat a navy whaler during a race in the port of Scalloway, the ancient capital of Shetland.

A chance for the Royal Navy to recover its honour came yesterday when the crew of the fishery protection vessel *HMS Shetland*

picked up the gauntlet thrown down by teams of Shetlanders in Lerwick.

Blessed with today's superior training equipment, work-out techniques and knowledge of nutrition, the sailors were quietly confident this time that they could leave the Scottish women trailing.

The sturdiest men aboard *HMS Shetland* were chosen and repaired to the rowing machine in the ship's gymnasium for a vigor-

ous bout of exercise to prepare for the race.

The challenge involved racing a measured mile in a traditional skiff or yawl, borrowed from the Lerwick Boating Club. The light rowing boat is clinker-built: made with external planks overlapping downwards and fastened with clenched copper nails. As a warm-up, the sailors were allowed to race against five crews of Shetland men. They finished last. Excite-

ment grew as they prepared to do battle with the weaker sex. The Navy might have been less assured had they taken note of the chauvinist observations of the oil workers who are consigned to the wild islands for months on end. "In the Shetlands," the oilmen's saying goes, "the men are men, and so are the women."

Cheered on by their victorious menfolk, the ladies of Burra Isle crossed the finishing line in 9

minutes 42 seconds. Three more women's teams, from Whitedale, Bigton and Lerwick, also beat the sailors.

The shamed Navy took more than a minute longer than Burra Isle to complete the mile, huffing across the line, last again.

Sylvia Jameson, a petite member of the Burra Isle crew, said in the boating club bar afterwards: "It was easy. No problem. But they've taken it very well."

First Lieutenant Vince Noyce, one of the losers, said: "No excuses. It's a bloody hard sport, a lot harder than we expected. Somehow I don't think we'll be taking it up. The boating club have been very kind. They gave us a bottle of whisky as a consolation prize. We've all got terrible blisters but it was good fun, the highlight of our visit to Shetland."

He stopped short of admitting that the women were stronger.

"Watching these ladies now, I can see it's all technique," Mr Noyce said. "We just didn't have it." None of the sailors, however, dared ask the women for an arm-wrestling contest.

So where were the ladies of Trondra, whose great-great-grandmothers had whipped the Navy when Hitler was a boy? They were still maintaining their fearsome traditions: they had gone down to London for the Thames rowing race at the weekend, winning their section and coming seventh overall.

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Gimme shelter: Mick Jagger at an open-air Rolling Stones concert in The Hague

Hawking condemns animal rights activists

STEPHEN HAWKING, the Nobel prize-winning scientist, has condemned activists who try to block experiments on animals. "Computers can do amazing things, but even the most powerful computers can't replace animal experiments in medical research," he said yesterday.

In a message to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting this week at Cardiff University, Professor Hawking said: "I think the fuss over the use of animals in medical research is ridiculous. Why is it worse to use animal experiments to save lives than to eat them, which the majority of the population are happy to do?"

"I suspect that extremists turn to animal rights from a lack of the more worthwhile causes of the past like nuclear disarmament."

The author of *A Brief History of Time* is a patron of Seriously Ill for Medical Research, a patients' charity set up to challenge the views of campaigners who claim medical testing on animals is unnecessary. Other patrons include Jane Asher, the actress, John Diamond, the *Times* columnist, Faith Brown, the comedienne, and Jonathan Miller, the director and scientist.

Professor Hawking, the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, contributed to the debate on the value of animal experimentation.

The debate coincides with

Scientist says computers will never be powerful enough to replace live experiments, reports Nick Nuttall

the retirement of Professor Colin Blakemore of Oxford University as president of the association. His arrival at the festival was delayed yesterday after activists targeted a cat farm at Hill Grove, near Witney, Oxfordshire, where animals are bred for experiments including ones carried out at Professor Blakemore's laboratory. The farm is near his home.

Professor Blakemore, who carries out pioneering research into the human nervous system and the brain, said the police had delayed him for an hour and were still there in the early evening.

He said: "This is because of splinter groups coming down and attacking my home. It has been 11 years now since I have been living with threats, letter bombs both real and fake, property damage, five cars badly damaged, threats against my kids, death threats against my wife and my secretary, having my hands cut by razor blades in envelopes. It is unbelievable pressure."

He said that his laboratory used about six kittens a year from the farm in experiments aimed at unravelling diseases in humans including deafness and blindness. This was, like



Hawking: "fuss over use of animals is ridiculous"

laboratories across Britain, the lowest level yet. "They are used for studies of the cerebral cortex and a new technique for imaging the cerebral cortex. This is very closely linked with new brain imaging techniques in human beings," said Professor Blakemore.

He rejected claims that the experiments involved cruelty. "All the work is done on anaesthetised animals. It is given a single injection and never wakes up."

Professor Blakemore said that rights groups wanted alternatives to animal experi-

ments, and that they were developing these too. "I and many other people have put huge efforts into this in the last ten years, particularly tissue culture methods. I have not been unresponsive to campaigning. It makes us all aware that we need to reduce and refine techniques. But the public has to realise there are areas where there are no substitutes," he said.

Mike Baker, chief executive of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, claimed that alternatives to animal experiments existed but that these were "underfunded, underused and their implementation is blocked at every turn".

Andrew Blake, director and founder of Seriously Ill for Medical Research, last night condemned the violence and intimidation of Professor Blakemore and other scientists involved in animal experiments.

Mr Blake, who suffers from Friedrich's ataxia, a wasting disease, founded the group because he feared the activities of animal rights groups were threatening the future of medical research. It supports humane animal research into disabling diseases, incurable and progressive diseases. Two years ago, the charity called on animal rights campaigners to pledge never to undergo medical treatments that were developed with the help of animal research, such as blood transfusions and antibiotics.

Drinkers locked in over cat farm row

By A CORRESPONDENT

DRINKERS enjoying a Sunday afternoon pint were locked into their local yesterday after an angry confrontation with animal rights activists.

Trouble flared when the regulars responded to loud chanting from protesters about Hill Grove Farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for scientific experiments.

Mounted police broke up the two groups and the landlord locked his drinkers inside the Windrush.

More than 600 people had travelled from all over the country to take part in the protest at the work done at Hill Grove Farm. The stand-off at the pub — 200 yards from the road-block — is the latest incident between activists and locals annoyed at having their daily lives disrupted.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "We have arrested a total of nine men — two for obstruction, one for assault on police, one for affray, one for public order offences and four others for offences which were alleged to have happened at a previous demonstration at the cat farm last April. A woman has also been arrested for allegedly causing criminal damage today."

New Lads hide fears behind their beers

By NICK NUTTALL

PAUL GASCOIGNE, Liam Gallagher and other New Lads of the 1990s may be far wimpler than their roughish, beer-swilling, hedonistic images would suggest.

A sociologist will tell a scientific gathering this week that "new laddism" — the bible of which are magazines such as *Lad*, *FM* and *Maxim* — is really a cover for a growing subculture of men who feel impotent in the face of rapid economic and social upheavals.

Angus Bancroft, of Cardiff University, said: "The New Lad was supposed to be a tough, arrogant, sexy and self-reliant replacement for the effeminate New Man of the 1980s. He is supposed to enjoy football, drinking, is comfortable with soft porn. He is generally pleased with himself but dignified by ironic awareness of his clownish nature."

But Mr Bancroft will tell the British Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting on Thursday that the New Lad is really "a bit of a weed. He seems curiously out of his depth in the midst of the rapid changes affecting society at every level," he said.

Mr Bancroft, from the university's School of Social and Administrative Studies, said history was littered with examples of "new laddishness". "Gangs of young aristocratic men wandered the streets of Ancient Rome at night on



Gascoigne, left, and Gallagher: "vulnerable" New Lads

rampages of drink and violence," he said. "What is new is that these things were seen in the past as phases in a young man's life which he would grow out of. The New Lad is a broad shift in male behaviour across the social classes."

He said Gascoigne and Gallagher were perfect examples of "vulnerable man-child" figures unprepared to take responsibility for their actions.

Mr Bancroft said the Government and Tony Blair had to shoulder some responsibility for the cult of laddishness by encouraging emotional populism, which led to infantile behaviour in young adults, who carry it on into middle age.

"To understand laddishness I have put it in context with increased infantilism at all levels of British society, the search for instant satisfaction and the rejection of responsi-

bility, social or personal," he said.

Men are also becoming marginalised by women with male unemployment exceeding female unemployment and girls beating boys at examinations.

"The emotional populism of the government and the media and touchy-feely Britain conspire to suggest that the 1990s is the women's decade. Men, especially young men, are being regarded as a problem," Mr Bancroft said.

"It is not a triumph for feminism, because women do not have anything to gain if men increasingly retreat into a world which celebrates narcissism of the beer belly."

Mr Bancroft said New Lads should not be seen as a witty or ironic challenge to political correctness, as some have suggested. "It is an attempt to avoid the challenges of an evolving society," he said.

Squire's diaries of 200 years ago help weather scientists

By NICK NUTTALL

THE dusty diaries of a Rutland squire who lived more than 200 years ago will help to refine supercomputer weather models trying to predict the impact of global warming.

Professor Trevor Davies, of the University of East Anglia in Norwich, said yesterday: "We want to know if the variability and extreme weather of recent years is unusual or not. To do this we really need around 200 to 300 years of weather data, which is where the diaries come in."

Official national weather records, which began in the 1860s in Britain, were too short. Scientists have traced diaries and records by enthusiastic amateurs across Europe stretching back to about 1675. But the jewel is considered to be the diary of Thomas Barker, a landowner who lived at Lyndon Hall, Rutland.

John Kington, a visiting fellow at the university's climatic research unit who has spent several years researching the life and diaries of Squire Barker, brother-in-law of the naturalist Gilbert

White, said that Barker was interested in farming and bee keeping and wrote on theology. "But it is his weather diaries which are such marvellous records. He started out at about the age of 11 in the 1730s and continued until the 1790s."

The squire was meticulous, using barometers and thermometers to record pressure and temperature every morning and afternoon along with details of cloud formation, rainfall, wind speeds and other weather observations.

The Barker diaries chronicle the little ice age that covered Europe during the late 18th century, when winter temperatures averaged 3C (37F) and persisted from December to early April in some years.

Professor Davies said that such curious weather records were now helping researchers to discover whether past centuries were plagued with extreme weather or was relatively stable.

Ecstasy is suspected as boy dies near club

A BOY of 16 was found dead outside an all-night dance club yesterday after apparently taking Ecstasy.

The teenager, from Gateshead, had been led to a bench outside the After Dark club in South Shields, South Tyne-side, by bouncers after feeling unwell. He had been out with a group of friends.

Witnesses told police and ambulance staff that they believed he had taken Ecstasy. Another reveller saw the boy unconscious on the bench where he had been left earlier by doormen.

An ambulance was called at 7.30am but the boy was dead on arrival at South Tyne-side District Hospital.

Detective Inspector William Sprates said: "It is a really terrible tragedy for a young lad to die in that way. We are waiting for toxicology reports to establish exactly what was in his body at the time. There was no alcohol on sale at the club, only water and soft drinks, but people have told us that his speech was slurred and he was at times becoming incoherent."

Forecast, page 24

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Man Utd deal sure to attract close scrutiny on fair trading

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

IF Manchester United Football Club were bought by British Sky Broadcasting, the deal would be closely scrutinised by the Office of Fair Trading.

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that it would expect the OFT to examine any deal to ensure there were no implications that might infringe competition. It would be up to the OFT to look into any deal, and pass its recommendation to Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who has the final say on whether acquisitions are referred to the Monopoly and Mergers Commission for a formal investigation.

The OFT's normal criteria for investigating a deal are that it creates a player with a 25 per cent market share or that it involves companies with £70 million in assets worldwide. Both Manchester

United and BSkyB — a company in which News International, parent group of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake — easily cross the asset threshold.

Market share is a more difficult question. Manchester United, despite its pulling power, footballing record and profitability, is still only one of 20 clubs in the FA Premier League, each of which has one vote. With BSkyB it depends on how the market is defined. The company is dominant in the pay-television market but much less so in the television market overall.

However, the OFT will almost certainly want to look at the implications of a major force in pay-television sports rights taking over what is an influential, if only partial, owner of such rights.

A much larger issue of how television rights in the UK should be sold is due to come

to a head in January in the Restrictive Practices Court. One of the first things John Bridgeman did when taking over as Director-General of Fair Trading in 1995 was to refer to the court the Premier League's agreement with BSkyB and the BBC on the rights to broadcast matches.

The OFT argues that the deal, which runs until 2001, is a cartel that operates against the interests of individual clubs and the public because it is negotiated collectively. The case is expected to last for three or four months. If the Restrictive Practices Court rules against BSkyB's agreement with the Premier League, it has the power to strike out the deal and prevent any such collective agreement being entered into again. Television rights would then have to be negotiated on a club-by-club basis, with perhaps the home club owning the television rights to any fixture.

The League and BSkyB will argue that chaos could ensue, and that US sports leagues have specific exemption from anti-trust legislation. Lawyers for BSkyB and Manchester United are convinced that no serious competition issues would be raised by a deal. All existing agreements would be honoured. Sky Sports would still show 60 live games a season with the obligation to show each club at least three times. The existing criteria for selecting the game to broadcast live would continue. The club's management would also remain in place, if they chose to.

Even if the deal were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, BSkyB would remain committed to arguing the case for approval, which ultimately rests with the DTI Secretary.

Oliver Holt, page 28
Business, page 48



Andy Walsh, chairman of Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association, giving his view yesterday

Brand name set to make £100m

Adrian Lee reports on the massive business operation that adds up to the world's richest football club

MANCHESTER UNITED is the world's richest football club, making £1 million profit from every home game. This year, income is expected to exceed £100 million for the first time.

Much of it comes from gate receipts. The annual report for 1997 shows that fans paid £30 million to watch their team. The sale of shirts and souvenirs is worth £29 million a year to United, which receives another £12.6 million from television companies.

Shirt and other sponsorship brings in another £11 million and conference and catering at Old Trafford is worth £5.5 million. Programme sales alone are worth £1 million a year.

The 1997 balance sheet shows that Manchester United's income rose by 65 per cent on the previous year to £88 million, despite a wage bill of £22 million, which is easily the highest in the Premiership. The income of Newcastle United, the second biggest earner, is less than half that of the Manchester club.

The club's annual revenue is only slightly less than the combined income of two of Italy's leading clubs, Juventus and Inter Milan. Latest fig-

ures show the club bank account is also healthy, with cash reserves of £16.5 million and assets of £72.4 million.

Manchester United's success in nurturing its own players, such as Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes is a major factor. The purchases of the Dutch defender Jaap Stam for £10.6 million and the Aston

Villa forward Dwight Yorke for £12.6 million are not included in the latest accounts. The pre-tax profit made by Manchester United for the 1996-97 season (the most recent declared) was £27.5 million.

United's success is the clearest indicator of the growing gap between football's haves and have-nots. On a

single match day, the club generates more income than 22 of the 92 league clubs do in an entire season.

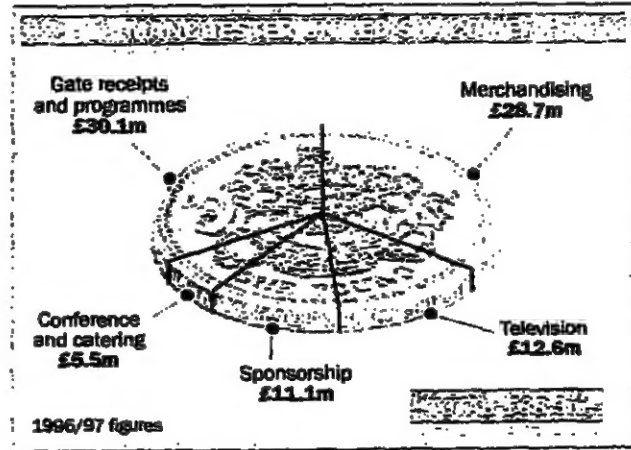
Manchester United first joined the stock market in 1991, when it was valued at £47 million. In July it opened a savings account for fans, which could make the club more than £100,000 a year.

Britannia will pay Manchester United 1 per cent of the total saved in the club's building society accounts. It is also building its own four-star hotel with more than 100 rooms, and has a museum.

The name of Manchester United is one of the world's most famous brands. Although most of the club's home games are 55,000 sell-outs, the majority of the team's three million British supporters have never been to Old Trafford.

City analysts predict that Manchester United will continue to grow as the capacity at Old Trafford is increased to 67,000. television revenue rises and it is able to charge shirt and pitch-hoarding sponsors more.

Despite the club's failure to win a trophy last year, Collins Stewart, the stockbroker, concludes: "Manchester United is a cash machine."



BRUSSELS SEES NO OBJECTION

THE European Union's competition authority is unlikely to object to the acquisition of Manchester United by BSkyB (Charles Bremner writes).

Officials said yesterday that, because Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, parent company of BSkyB, did not already own a European football team, they would not be criticised. He can do whatever he likes. I don't think we will look at this at all," said an official from the Brussels competition authority.

Yard Van der Vliet, the Competition Commission's chief, added: "We are not concerned with the fact that the club is a public limited company, which is a common feature of many sports clubs in the UK."

closed practices and abuse of dominant position in the sports world, but, on the face of it, BSkyB's purchase of a single team would not come under these headings, officials said. "If he [Mr Murdoch] bought more than one club that would be different," the official said. The issue of control of broadcasting rights did not on first sight seem relevant.

The only ground on which the Commission might be called in would be if Manchester United had an annual turnover of more than £170 million, with one third of it coming from outside the United Kingdom. Again, at first glance, that did not seem to apply, the officials said.

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Half of Britain's shops are now open on Sundays

Audrey Magee and Ciaran Hughes report on a change in our way of life

SHOPPING has become an accepted part of the British Sunday, with almost half of the country's stores opening and less than a quarter of shoppers opposed in principle to the practice, according to a new survey.

The study of 20 centres in England and Wales, for the consultants Healey and Baker, found that the number of shops that opened on Sunday had increased since last year, when only a third of Britain's shops did so. Mixed goods stores, such as department stores, continue to represent the highest percentage of shops that open on a Sunday. There has been a marked increase in food shops remaining open — up from 50 per cent last year to 72 per cent this year; and 60.1 per cent of sports and leisure stores open on Sundays, compared with 48 per cent in 1997.

Sales on a Sunday are not outstanding — they add up to about a third of those on

Saturdays, the busiest day of trading.

The Sunday trading laws were relaxed in 1994, and Dr Yvonne Court, Head of Retail Research Services, says that Sunday trading "has become fully established in the British way of life and makes good sense. For many people, longer opening hours offer the convenience of being able to shop outside the peak times."

In the Irish Republic, the number of people paying more attention to Mammon than to God on a Sunday is worrying Church leaders. A

recent survey showed that 60 per cent of the Republic's Roman Catholics attended weekly Mass compared with 77 per cent four years ago.

Virtually every shop in Grafton Street, the main shopping street in Dublin, now opens on Sunday, and shopping centres on the outskirts of the capital are booming. For the shopping centre in Blanchardstown, Sunday is the busiest day of the week.

The Catholic bishops, spurred by a recent letter from the Pope calling on Christians to keep Sunday holy, will draw up an emergency plan at their conference next month to try to stem the tide.

The Most Rev Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, a west of Ireland diocese, recently said that a society that did not observe Sabbath was "a retrograde step on behalf of the producer/consumer society". The Archbishop said that it was "a form of slavery" for success to be "measured in



Shoppers in London on a Sunday. A survey found that few people disapprove of Sunday trading

terms of economics, productivity and possessions".

The number of Roman Catholics in England and Wales who attend Mass has also fallen.

The Catholic Church accepts that it must compete for worshippers with rival attractions. Priests have been en-

couraged to improve their preaching, in recognition of the wide choice of activities now available on Sundays. The Church has also revived Mass on Saturday evenings and offered Sunday services with or without music, of differing durations and times.

Kieran Conry, a spokesman for the Catholic Church and a priest in Wandsworth, south London, said: "Habits are changing — there is a lot more to do on a Sunday and there has been a gradual decline in Mass-going. Nobody can say if that is tied to shopping, but the nature of Sunday is being destroyed. Soon it will be a

working day." In Ireland, trade unions and some politicians are also worried about the trend. Ireland has no laws governing Sunday opening hours. In Britain, large supermarkets can open for a maximum of six hours on Sunday. In Ireland, the shopping day has no legal end.

Children face rise in school bullying

By Victoria Fletcher

A MASSIVE increase in the number of children complaining of bullying has taken it ahead of physical and mental abuse from adults as the main trauma they face.

Calls to ChildLine about school bullies rose by 40 per cent last year, with ChildLine helping 14,300 bullied children last year, many of whom said they had been driven close to suicide.

The escalating scale of the problem has led the charity to launch a campaign on the issue, to increase awareness and raise funds to help more children. At present, the charity answers only 3,300 calls of the 10,000 they receive daily because of restricted resources.

ChildLine hopes to raise over £500,000 from a pin-badge campaign launched today to draw attention to the problems of bullying and bring them into the open. A new leaflet to guide parents, pupils and teachers on how to recognise and cope with bullying, is also to be introduced.

St Andrews to take a swing at golf vandals

By Robin Young

AFTER 250 years' serene pursuit of golfing excellence, administrators at the world's best-known course have been obliged to hire round-the-clock security guards to control vandals.

The Fife course at St Andrews is the most hallowed 6,566 yards in golfing history, but it has been anything but sacred to night-time intruders who have burned benches, torn up flags and lit barbecues in the bunker.

By day St Andrews is a Mecca for lovers of the game from all over the world. Golf pilgrims queue for precious tee-times on the links, and when it is finally their turn to play, many spend more time posing for pictures by the Swilken Burn and the Road Hole than they do lining up their shots. After their £100 round on the Fife course most visitors buy a St Andrews sweater and bonnet to take home with them.

Now it is feared the green fees at the course will be forced even higher, to help pay for the security guards who will be patrolling the strip alongside the Fife coast. St Andrews's five other courses — the New, Eden,

Jubilee, Straithgairn and Balgove — have also suffered from night-time vandals, so now guards will come on duty when the daytime rangers sign off.

The vandalism has been blamed by some on students at St Andrews University, although this is strenuously denied by the University Students' Association which says there is no evidence to implicate the students.

No one was available from the St Andrews Links management committee yesterday for comment but a spokeswoman for St Andrews University said any students found misbehaving would be dealt with by its disciplinary policy.

The Links management committee will be reviewing green fees later this month and an increase is expected because the night guards will cost thousands of pounds a year to employ.

Yesterday one golfer, who did not want to be named, said: "If an increase in fees is linked to this vandalism then I am sure a lot of golfers would see that as unfair. It's a shame that somewhere like St Andrews has to resort to security like this."



John Dunn. Aerially lit up, the Old Course at St Andrews is a sight to behold

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All aboard the virtual school bus



Coreen King, a parent at Wheatfields Junior School in St Albans, acts as a "driver" in the virtual bus scheme. Pupils are kept in line by the volunteer "conductor" bringing up the rear

CHILDREN will take part today in a simple but ground-breaking attempt to prevent traffic congestion caused by the school run. The "virtual bus" is seen by ministers as the cheap and effective way of persuading parents to let their children walk to school.

Pupils in St Albans, Hertfordshire, will stand at a series of "bus stops", waiting for a trained volunteer to escort them to school.

The virtual bus scheme comes complete with a "conductor" who supervises the pupils during their half-mile walk to school and a "driver", who wheels a trolley carrying satchels, lunch boxes and gym bags. Pupils even get a timetable of the free service.

Parents chauffeuring their children to school are responsible for about one in five morning peak-time car journeys. Ministers worried about the reluctance of parents to allow their children to walk to school have told local councils that priority must be given to

Arthur Leathley reports on a simple scheme to keep pupils safe and reduce morning traffic congestion

providing safe routes for cycling and walking.

The St Albans scheme, believed to be the first formal project of its kind, is centred on Wheatfields Junior School in the north of the city. Pupils aged between 5 and 10 will receive a loyalty card, allowing them to receive free items from the school stationery shop if they use the service regularly.

Only 59 per cent of children aged 5 to 10 currently walk to school, compared with 72 per cent in the mid-1970s.

Each volunteer escort will undergo police checks and will take up to five pupils. The school plans to extend the scheme to a further six routes later this month.

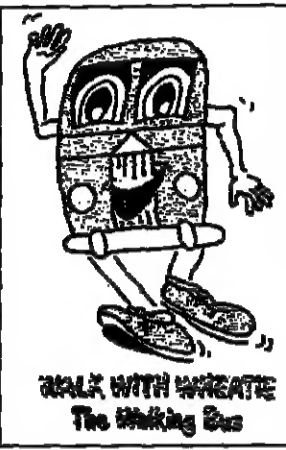
The scheme has been de-

vised by Mouchel Consulting, a civil engineering company hired by Hertfordshire County Council to set up safer routes for pupils. Although the scheme being tried this week involves only a half-mile walk, there are plans to introduce longer routes later.

Julia Moreland, from Mouchel, said: "Like every other school, congestion is a problem at Wheatfields and this is a simple way of ensuring that children get to school safely."

"They all wear fluorescent vests and it has the advantage that they also learn about road sense as well."

To keep some of the older pupils interested in being escorted to school, an end-of-term "green disco" is being



Posters will encourage pupils to use the "bus"

staged for those who join the virtual bus project or cycle and walk to school.

A successful trial scheme was run at the school in June and other local authorities have approached organisers to find out the best way of setting up the virtual bus scheme.

Daily car run can be bad for child's health

By IAN MURRAY, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN who are driven to school risk growing up with heart disease and brittle bones, according to a report published today.

Parents may think it is safer to drop their children off rather than let them walk, it says, but they are establishing a behaviour pattern that could undermine their health in later years.

The report, by researchers at the Institute of Child Health, part of The Hospital for Children, Great Ormond Street, is based on an analysis of published data on school travel during the past 20 years. It aims to shock parents into realising the harm they are doing their children with the daily school run.

Most primary schoolchildren still walk to school but the proportion has fallen from 72 per cent in the mid-1970s to 59 per cent today. The main factors influencing the decline appear to be rising car ownership and parents' fears of molestation, abduction and traffic accidents.

At present 82 per cent of five to ten-year-olds from households without cars walk to school compared with 52 per

cent of those in households with two or more cars.

The daily walk to school represents 41 per cent of the average distance walked by all children annually, making it a vital component of physical activity at a time when figures show rising obesity among British children.

The patterns of adult physical activity are known to be established in childhood. Participation in sports declines steeply when children leave school, but those who are physically active are likely to persist with sports and other exercise into adult life. Adults who still participate in sports at 36 are likely to be those who were good at games at school.

Physical exercise in adulthood reduces illness and premature death from heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and osteoporosis. It also reduces mental health disorders.

According to Ian Roberts, director of child health monitoring at the institute, children are driven around more because the physical environment has become so hostile. "Children are also getting more miserable," he said. "We

are seeing a whole host of behavioural problems, and while that's not necessarily linked to being cooped up, it cannot help."

He said the trend for adults to take less exercise was already increasing the amount of ill health in older people. "The present generation of children, progressively losing the habit of walking to school, will continue the trend," he said. "And as more parents acquire cars, more children will be driven."

Ben Plowden, director of the Pedestrians' Association, the pressure group that commissioned the report, said: "Rising car ownership, time pressures and fears about paedophiles and traffic make the school run seem unavoidable for many parents. The resulting air pollution and traffic damage the health of children who do still walk to school. Now it looks like the school run may be bad for the health of the children being driven, let alone their future health as adults."

□ *The School Run - Blessing or Blight?* The Pedestrians' Association, 126 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4UQ; £15

Standards are still perilously low, says pupil study

By VICTORIA PLETCHER

RESEARCH has shown that standards in many English schools are "perilously low" and pupils who struggle in primary school continue to fail throughout their education.

Teachers are blamed in the report, to be published today, for not helping pupils who find schoolwork difficult. The research also shows that the social background of children does not influence their ability.

The research, carried out for the Social Market Foundation, analysed test scores of 2.4 million pupils aged seven to 16 in more than 23,000 schools. The author of the report, John Marks, a former government policy adviser, said: "At present rates of improvement - where they exist - it will take many years before the actual standards achieved are equal to the expected standards. The spread between the standards of different schools of the same type remains very large, shows little sign of decreasing and may even be increasing for some of the subjects studied."

The research showed that pupils who struggled with learning at an early age were not helped through their difficulties by teachers, and therefore continued to slip behind their classmates over the following years. In some cases, pupils could fall up to six academic years behind those of the same age in neighbouring schools. Overall, 98 per cent of schools failed to achieve the national target for English for their 14-year-old pupils.

In Barnsley there was up to 3½ years' difference between pupils from separate schools who took English and mathematics tests. In some other schools, more than 30 per cent of pupils failed all their GCSEs.

Last weekend a survey by education researchers from Reading University showed that two thirds of secondary schools did not know how to teach literacy properly and wanted clearer government advice on how to help low achievers to improve for national curriculum tests.

Two weeks ago GCSE results suggested that poor performers were consistently ignored by teachers in favour of high-flying pupils who could alter the school's league table positions. In mathematics, the number of pupils who did not even achieve a result at GCSE had doubled since 1997. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the body that oversees national curriculum tests, has promised a full review of the situation faced by low achievers for next year.

No P... QCs

By FRANK... 12.30

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Twinning plan may be adopted by the UN

By DANIEL MCGRODY

UNITED NATIONS officials are considering whether a Gloucestershire school's scheme to help children abroad should be adopted by governments internationally.

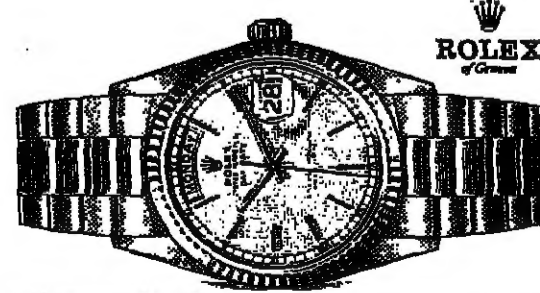
The scheme, devised by the Archway comprehensive in Stroud, twins a British school with one of similar size abroad to work on specific projects. It has been described by one senior UN official as "so simple it is embarrassing that we haven't thought of it before".

The UN's interest in the scheme comes at a time when it is seeking ways to raise money as governments cut back on aid programmes. Senior UN officials have invited pupils from Archway to describe their scheme in detail.

It was inspired by Diana, Princess of Wales's last trip to Bosnia, when she promised to help Mirzeta Gabelic, a 16-year-old who lost a leg when she stepped on a landmine. The Princess died before she could carry out her promise and the school sent one of its pupils to Sarajevo to see what practical help it could offer Mirzeta and her family.

As a result of the trip, the school helped to renovate the girl's home and provided a playground for her school. Bob Willey, a teacher at Archway, said: "Our children can use this experience to figure out a business project, its costing and application, and to learn about the effect of war. They feel ownership of the problem and the solution."

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THE TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

No place for Carman in QCs' million-a-year club

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FIFTEEN Queen's Counsel who reputedly earn £1 million a year are named this week in a survey of earnings at the Bar.

The top-grossing QCs include six who have joined the million-a-year club since last year, according to the survey in the 1998 *Chambers' Guide to the Legal Profession*. But gone from the list is George Carman, the libel silk who was among the top earners when the survey was first published last year.

The six barristers new to the list this year, who are said by colleagues and barristers' clerks to be earning £1 million before overheads and expenses, are: Terence Etherton, Michael Flesch, David Oliver, Jules Sher, Nicholas Staden and Geoffrey Vos.

Out of the "club", with Mr Carman, are: Andrew Park, who since last year has been appointed a High Court judge, Peter Scott, and Michael Beloff, now President of Trinity College, Oxford, and busy on a wide range of activities as

well as his practice. Mr Carman was the only QC in the list last year who did not come from the tax, commercial or chancery Bar. He has not recently had a major libel action, such as the Jonathan Aitken case, that has gone all the way to trial.

The survey is published by Chambers & Partners as part of a package of research in its directory of 1,000 law firms and barristers. Reena Sen-Gupta, the guide's editor, said: "Barristers' earnings one year may be very different the next: they are not set in stone. You can get caught up in one case that lasts for months, for instance, or a big case can settle."

The income of many top-earning solicitors was much more certain, she said. In contrast, barristers were far more vulnerable to the vagaries of fortune. Nonetheless, there could more than 15 QCs in the million-a-year club: those whose earnings were on the borderline were excluded from the list and some clerks

TOP EARNERS

The QCs who are in the million-a-year club:

- Graham Aaronson
- Michael Burton
- Christopher Carr
- Terence Etherton
- Michael Flesch
- John Gardner
- Elizabeth Gloster
- David Goldberg
- Anthony Grabiner
- David Oliver
- Gordon Pollock
- Jules Sher
- Nicholas Staden
- Jonathan Sumption
- Geoffrey Vos



Pollock: number one "star" at the Bar

were coy about their barristers' earnings.

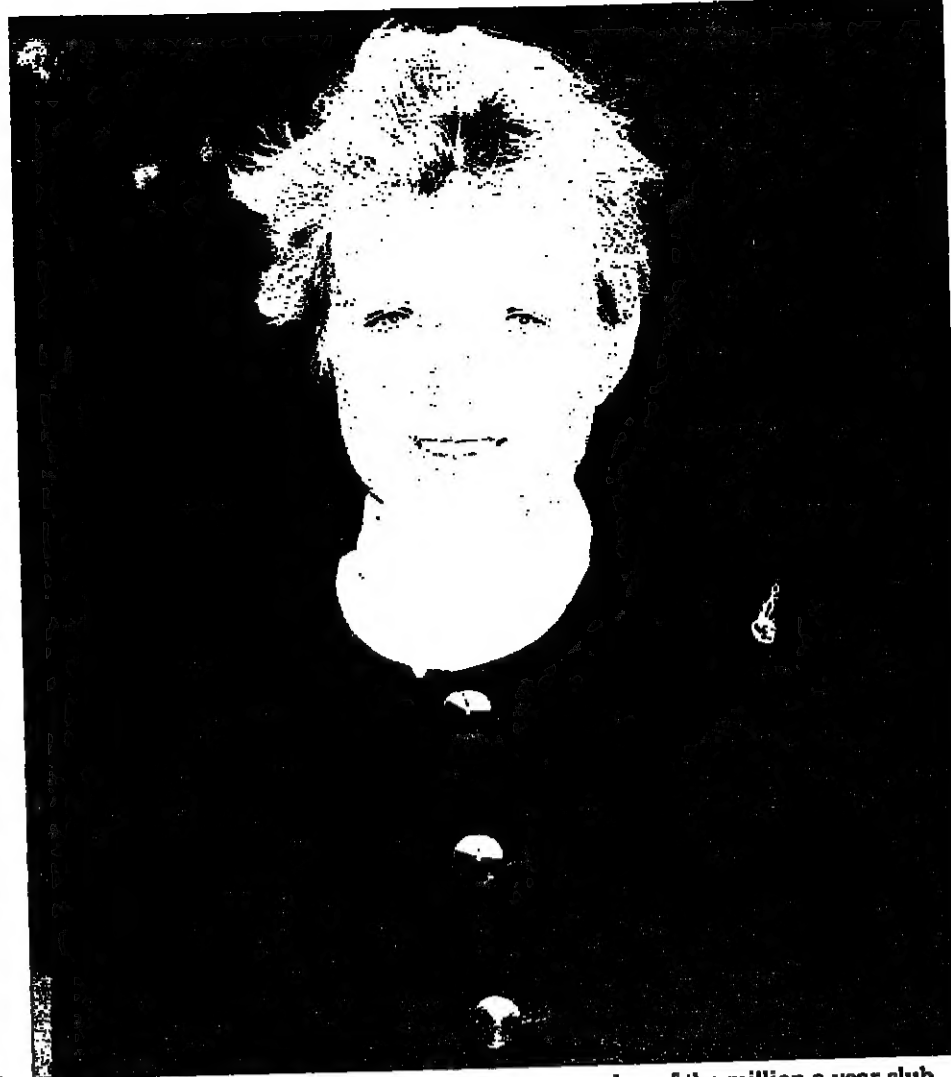
"There is a nervousness about being included because you might put off clients, and also you can also only fall downwards," Ms Sen-Gupta said.

The figures come as the Bar struggles to rid itself of a "fat cat" image, reinforced in recent months by comments of government ministers. The

the QCs' top-quality work. "These fees represent a fraction of the millions that the QCs succeed in saving for their clients in many of these cases and the company clients that pay them regard them as value for money," Ms Sen-Gupta said.

The guide, which has its research audited by the British Market Research Bureau, reveals the QCs regarded by other lawyers and clients as the best performers in their fields. It also has a list of the top ten "stars" at the Bar — QCs rated highly across several fields of law, rather than one or two, by the solicitors who instruct them.

Top of the list is Gordon Pollock, who appears in nine specialist lists. His practice is said to be "unmatched". He is followed by Jonathan Sumption in eight lists. Anthony Grabiner, in third place, is on only five lists but the quality of his practice is said to be "outstanding". Six of the top ten are in the million-a-year club.



Elizabeth Gloster, the only woman who is a member of the million-a-year club

Letters, page 21

Mother sues hospital over cancer 'failure'

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A MOTHER who has secondary breast cancer is taking legal action against Guy's hospital after doctors allegedly failed to diagnose her condition for three years.

Beth Wagstaff, 39, who set up the breast cancer charity The Lavender Trust in memory of her close friend Ruth Picardie, the journalist who died a year ago of breast cancer, has issued a medical negligence claim against Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust.

Ms Wagstaff, who lives in Hereford with her husband, Jon, and their three children, said: "I'm not going to be

around to give my children the lifestyle and support that a mother normally gives her children. The hospital compensation can't bring me back, but it certainly can help."

Ms Wagstaff says she first attended Guy's hospital in 1992 with a small lump in her breast. But it was not until Christmas 1994 that she was given a mammogram and discovered that she had breast cancer.

She was treated with chemotherapy for six months, followed by more than 50 doses of radiotherapy. But at the beginning of 1997 she discovered a dry patch of skin on her breast and a biopsy revealed the cancer had returned and spread to her bones. She had a mastectomy.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for the trust said: "We have the greatest sympathy for Beth and her family. Like her, we want to resolve this case as soon as possible. The lawyers are negotiating at the moment."

Ms Wagstaff will be interviewed on the programme *Too Young For Death*, scheduled to be shown on Channel 4 on October 14.



Wagstaff: says Guy's misdiagnosed cancer

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Russians relearn ways of austerity

LIKE passengers on the *Titanic* moments after the collision with an iceberg, Muscovites have reacted with a mixture of panic and bravado to the looming disaster facing their city.

As the flagship of Russia's reforms begins sinking in a sea of inflation and currency devaluation, some citizens are frantically scrambling for the lifeboats while others are opting to have one last dance in the ballroom or order a final round of drinks at the bar.

Three weeks into the crisis caused by the fall of the rouble and the collapse of the banking sector, it is now dawning on even the most optimistic Russians that the country faces years of hardship before it can hope to turn its economy around.

As banks and businesses continue to lay off thousands of staff and shoppers hoard staple goods to see them through the winter, the capital is heading back to a future reminiscent of Soviet days. The first casualties have been the luxury imported items which during Moscow's glitzy heyday over the past four years were vital status symbols for the new rich.

Today expensive shops stand empty, their foreign designer clothes beyond the means of all but a tiny minority rich enough to sit out

Moscow's luxury liner has been exposed as a ship of fools, Richard Beeston writes

the disaster. Similarly, sales of foreign cars, particularly the Jeeps and Mercedes favoured by "new Russian" businessmen, have all but stopped. In their place the Lada, the boxy but durable saloon, has made an impressive comeback.

Newspapers, once full of gossip, today provide handy tips on how to cope with the new realities of life. Last week readers were told which foodstuffs were best to store — sugar, pasta, oats and salt. There was also advice on how to retrieve money frozen in bank accounts, whether or not to buy gold, and Soviet-era survival tips on how to make the best use of old socks, orange rinds and newspapers. Not everyone is gloomy, however. Over the weekend Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor, threw his annual city birthday party and even hosted an athletics competition, which attracted international stars. Although the city can ill

afford to squander millions of pounds on parades and athletics sponsorship, the Mayor's beaming face and encouraging words did help to steady the city's nerves.

By far the stiffest upper lip in Moscow belongs to Aliona Dolitskaya, the stylish editor of the new Russian *Vogue*, which launched its first edition just as the crisis was unfolding last month.

The *Kommersant* newspaper said: "The Russian edition of *Vogue* hit the newsstands the day the Kiriyeenko government was fired and the entire middle class went to the dogs... The life serviced by glossy lifestyle magazines has deflated and is dissolving right before our eyes."

Although the magazine cancelled a planned party for top foreign fashion designers and supermodels, it went ahead with a more modest bash. "Enjoy it while you can," said a Russian photographer. "This is the last party we are going to see like this in a very long time."

Bank write-off, page 48



Clothes shoppers hurry to offload their increasingly worthless roubles at the All-Russia Exhibition Centre in Moscow at the weekend. Imported luxury goods are expected to be the first victims of the economic crisis

Golden mosaic crumbles in winds

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

NEARLY a year after the Umbrian earthquake which badly damaged the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi, strong winds and heavy rain have brought down part of a world-renowned golden mosaic on the facade of the cathedral at Orvieto.

The area has been cordoned off amid fears that other sections may also collapse.

Experts said it appeared that the spectacular mosaic, depicting the Coronation of the Virgin Mary, had been weakened by last September's earthquake, but the damage had gone unnoticed. It had remained precariously in place until this weekend's bad weather, which marked the end of a scorchingly hot summer in Italy. Fragments fell near some tourists, but no one was hurt.

EU backs mild reform recipe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN SALZBURG

THE European Union yesterday distanced itself from the American-backed recipe for all-out market reform in Russia and urged Moscow to forge a European-style welfare state as the surest solution to its economic and political woes.

The EU foreign ministers came up with their Russian formula at a session in Salzburg, Austria, that was coloured by concern over Europe's inability to run an effective common foreign policy and by some annoyance with the US. The absence on holiday of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, from an important EU council was seen by some continental ministers as a symptom of continuing British lack of EU spirit. Joyce Quin, the newly appointed Europe Minister, occupied Mr Cook's seat.

Europe wanted Russia to adopt the 1990s model of European economy rather than unfettered capitalism promoted by the Americans, said Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister. "You cannot force a market

economy onto them when it took two centuries to take root with us," he said.

The EU's new emphasis on gentler Russian reforms reflects a growing fear that the present crisis could lead to social unrest. In a brief statement that took a week to draft, the 15 governments called on Moscow to rule out a return to a Soviet-style command economy in favour of "structural reforms in order to establish a social market economy".

America was also the butt of ministerial attacks after Christopher Hill, Washington's special envoy for the crisis in Kosovo, attacked the EU last week for what he said was indifference to the Balkans while they "toasted themselves" on creating a United Europe.

In a furious riposte, Klaus Kinkel, the German minister, said: "It is not the role of a US Ambassador to express himself in such a cynical and disdainful way." The EU was doing a lot for Kosovo, ministers insisted, and there was now a glimmer of hope for a settlement there.

ALAN CLARK FORUM



Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 16, 1998.

The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister. The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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Clintons return to hostile Democrat reception

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton returned from Russia and Ireland yesterday to face the worsening crisis over his presidency, as more leading Democrats deserted his cause and Washington waited tensely for the impeachment report from Kenneth Starr, the prosecutor.

A stunned and panicky White House is bracing itself for the report on Mr Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky, which could arrive in Congress this week, and which is set to be even more sexually explicit and legally perilous than his supporters had feared.

In Ms Lewinsky's final two hours of testimony on August 26, Mr Starr asked such detailed and intimate questions that he arranged for all lawyers and stenographers in the room to be women, according to *Time* magazine. In a further unexpected blow this weekend, Parris Glendening, the Democratic Governor of Maryland, pointedly distanced himself from Mr Clinton by cancelling a fundraising event with the President which would have given him crucial cash for his difficult re-election fight.

The White House had counted Mr Glendening as one of the President's most vocal defenders, but was rebuffed when it tried to persuade him to go ahead with the event. Even in strongly Democratic Maryland, the Governor's private polls show public support for Mr Clinton withering, according to *The Washington Post*.

The Starr report on Mr Clinton's affair with the former White House trainee, which will provide the formal basis for impeachment hearings or pressure for Mr Clinton's resignation, could be delivered to Congress as early as this week, according to *Newsweek*. Six of Mr Starr's prosecutors are racing to complete the 300-page manuscript. He has also roped in the well-known Christian author and legal scholar, Stephen Bates, described as a "genuinely moral conservative" by colleagues, to bolster the team.

Waiting for the report, which will determine the

future of the Clinton presidency, has sent Washington into a fever. Republicans have accused the White House of planning a "glass-house" counter-attack, "outing" Republican sexual scandals in retaliation. This weekend Dan Burton, a Republican moralist, who called Mr Clinton "a scumbag" just months ago, was forced to admit he had fathered an illegitimate son during his marriage.

Yesterday the capital was awash with rumours of the report's details, from stories that Mr Clinton had a sexual affair with another trainee, to tales that he had groped a woman in the back seat of the presidential limousine.

On Capitol Hill, party leaders were trying to calm the fever, urging members to wait until they could consider the facts before calling for Mr Clinton's resignation or impeachment. Asked whether he expected the US to have President Clinton or President Gore in a year's time, Trent Lott, the Senate leader, said carefully: "It depends what is in the Starr report."

This week Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, will hold an unprecedented meeting with Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, to decide who will see the most explicit parts. But privately aides admit there is no chance of keeping the sexual details secret behind a "firewall".

Democrats, who had hopes just months ago of reclaiming the House of Representatives, are now fearing a rout in the November elections. They are terrified that Republicans will increase their majority in the 100-seat Senate to 60.

The desperate and demoralised "spinners" in the White House have reverted to the tactic of "prebutsals" which they used in last year's campaign finance controversies — leaking sensitive information to try to control the light in which it is presented. In recent days they have revealed that the relationship was briefer and more sporadic than widely assumed — just half a dozen encounters, with a final tryst in February 1997.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



The Clintons are met by Buddy on arriving home, but loyal friends are scarce

Doomed jet's last turn

FROM RICHARD CLEBOUX IN OTTAWA

INVESTIGATORS are working on a computer simulation of the last six minutes of Swissair Flight 111 before it crashed into the sea off Nova Scotia.

It emerged yesterday that Urs Zimmermann, the Swissair pilot, had flown a complex figure of eight over the water and nearby fishing villages at about 10,000ft. He tried in vain to dump fuel over the water because he believed his aircraft was still too heavy to land at Halifax international airport, which was less than ten minutes away.

Residents of Peggy's Cove and fishing villages around St Margaret's Bay have been telling reporters and police for the past four days that they had seen the aircraft pass over their homes and around the bay, not in a straight line out at sea. Investigators will determine whether the pilot's figure-of-eight manoeuvre may have lost precious time and contributed to the crash.

Investigators also revealed the final moment of the pilot's conversation at 10.24pm local time. Zimmermann radioed the air traffic control tower in Halifax: "We are declaring an emergency at 01.24." Up until then he had only declared a



A Swissair pilot demonstrates a training exercise at the weekend to simulate smoke in a plane cockpit

lower-level indication of trouble aboard the aircraft, a "pan pan pan", which is one level below the well-known mayday signal which the pilot never sent out.

Zimmermann continued: "We are starting 'vent now', we have to land immediately."

The radio communication suddenly went silent and the plane crashed six minutes later, possibly as it was still turning in a sharp loop to dump fuel. Investigators hope the black-box recorders will determine what happened after the radio and radar signals were broken off.

Over the weekend family

members and friends of the victims arrived at Peggy's Cove. Many of them placed wreaths at the base of the lighthouse which attracts thousands of tourists every summer. Others threw flowers into the ocean as they wept openly or filled jars with seawater.

Meanwhile, another 200 Canadian soldiers were brought in, bringing to more than 500 the number of military personnel patrolling the coastline all along St Margaret's Bay, gathering pieces of the aircraft and part of his man bodies which continue to wash up on the shore.

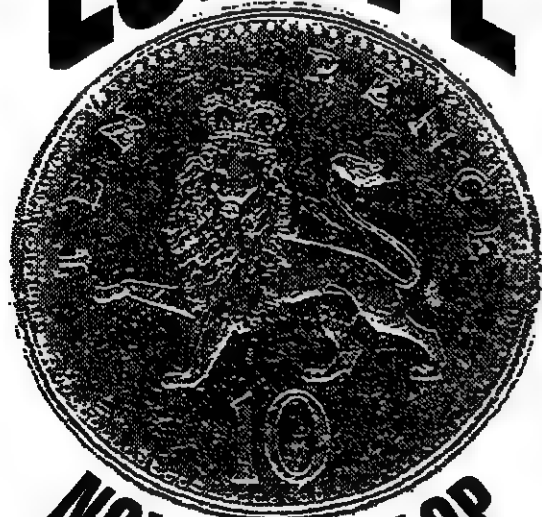
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Iran threatens Afghan border

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

IRAN moved 70,000 Revolutionary Guards close to the Afghan border yesterday in a tacit threat to invade. Although Tehran denied any hostile intention, the manoeuvres sent a message that it is ready to defend hundreds of thousands of Shia Muslims fighting for their lives against the extremist Taliban militia.

State-run Tehran radio warned that Iran had the right under international law to take all necessary action against Taliban over the disappearance of ten Iranian diplomats and a journalist — probably killed by Taliban when it seized the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif a month ago. The Iranian Consulate was ransacked and bodies lay in the sun for days.

Taliban gave a warning of catastrophe if Iran invaded: "If war is imposed on us it will have a domino effect that would turn the entire region into a fireball." The militia is reported to have armed civilians along the border with

Iran to meet any incursion by Revolutionary Guards — an almost meaningless gesture of resistance to superior forces.

Any military operation by Iran would doubtless expose Taliban's lack of military prowess, command structure or organisation. It is a ragtag army that has captured 90 per cent of the country mostly by bribing enemy commanders.

Thousands of Russian forces are positioned along the northern Afghan border in Tajikistan, ready to resist any border crossing. The rise of the fanatical Islamic army threatens to destabilise a wide region, and has drawn expressions of alarm from Turkey to



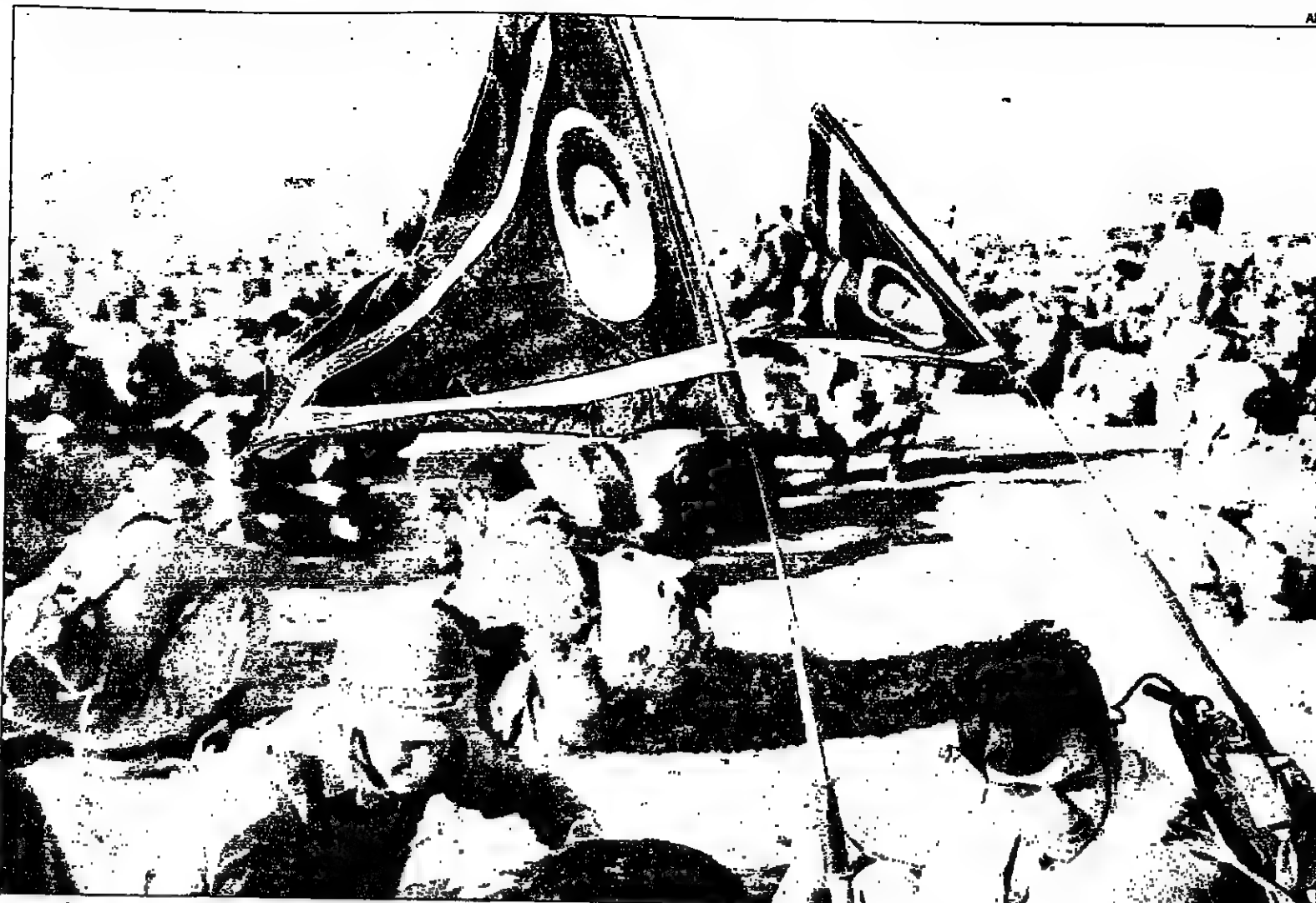
India. China is also worried about unrest among its Muslim population in the west.

Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, pledged "no confrontation with Taliban" — a statement that cannot be regarded as the final word as regional tensions rise and Shias in Afghanistan face slaughter.

Amnesty International said thousands of civilians from the Hazara ethnic group were massacred by Taliban after it captured Mazar-i-Sharif. The slaughter has added to fears for Shias besieged in Bamian. They have an airstrip for supplies but are otherwise cut off.

Taliban is also besieging the only other big opposition stronghold, the Panjshir Valley held by Ahmad Shah Masood, the Tajik leader. Taliban jets have been pounding the area.

□ New York: US intelligence officers drew up plans last spring for a covert raid to capture Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. The New York Times said yesterday. (AP)



Iranian soldiers perform military manoeuvres close to Afghanistan, where thousands of Shia Muslims are fighting extremist Taliban forces

Ban on logging to cut 1m jobs

FROM OWEN BROWN IN BEIJING

MORE than a million Chinese lumberjacks will trade their axes for shovels as part of a three-year plan to replant the forests of China and prevent a repeat of this summer's devastating floods.

Over-logging in central Sichuan province has been blamed for the worst flooding along the Yangtze in 44 years, with experts blaming millions of tons of silt washed each year into the upper reaches of the river for the record-high floods which have claimed more than 3,000 lives in the past three months.

The Government last week banned logging in Sichuan's 54 western counties, putting 4.6 million hectares of forest off limits to chainsaws, shutting down 65 timber mills and reducing production at a further 70 mills.

The State Forestry Administration estimated that the three-year ban would put more than a million people employed in China's timber industry out of work.

Li Yucai, deputy director of the forestry administration, said most laid-off workers would be given new jobs as tree planters.

A £1.5 billion investment strategy would ensure better protection for China's old-growth forests and eventually make lumber production

mainly reliant on newly planted trees. Mr Li told the state-run Xinhua news agency.

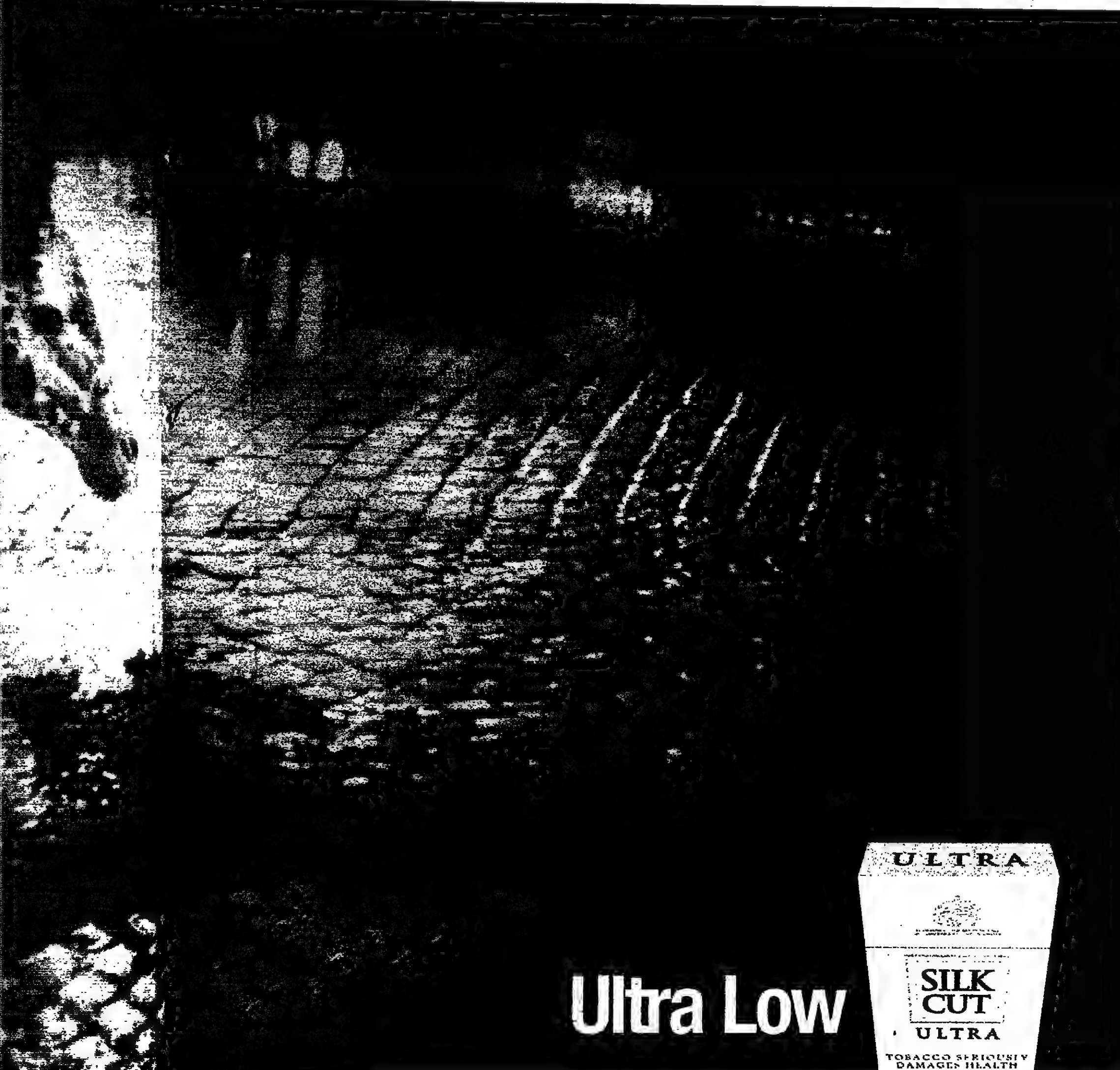
The total projected spending included £44 million earmarked this year for plantings in the upper Yangtze and Heilongjiang province in China's north-east, which bore the brunt of this year's floods.

Although China has 87 million hectares of forests, accounting for 9 per cent of its land, over-logging by illegal timber mills and farmers in isolated communities desperate for winter fuel prompted predictions that the country could be completely cleared of woodland in the next decade.

The international environmental group Greenpeace welcomed the move, but said the Government had acted too late. Ho Wai Chi, executive director of Greenpeace China said: "Something has to be done to improve farmers' livelihoods and allow them to survive without logging."

□ Rights pledge: Mary Robinson, the United Nations human rights chief, vowed to ensure that an agreement she hopes Chinese leaders will sign during her visit to the country would have "practical implications" for advancing human rights. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21



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Power of motion in the ocean

Somewhere off the south-west coast an intriguing experiment is about to begin. A hole will be drilled in the seabed and an "underwater windmill" planted there, the first major step in a project to test whether the swirling currents in the ocean can be transformed into useful energy.

The immense power of the sea is locked into the tides. "Tides are set up when the Moon pulls the surface of the ocean," says Peter Fraenkel, the technical director of IT Power, the Hampshire firm that designed the windmill, or marine current turbine. "This causes the ocean to slope and therefore currents are set up."

The resulting flows are particularly strong when the water is forced around headlands or between two chunks of land. That makes the British Isles, with their jagged geography, an ideal testing ground. A feasibility study by the company suggested that the currents in the Pentland Firth between Orkney and the Scottish mainland could produce 5,000 megawatts, equivalent to the output of five nuclear power stations — about 6 per cent of the nation's energy needs. A survey conducted for the Department of Trade and Industry showed that if all known currents surrounding the British Isles were harnessed, up to a fifth of our power needs could be met by marine current technology. And those are just the currents that have been documented; there are bound to be others lurking in unstudied areas.

This month, thanks to a £675,000 grant from the European Union, IT Power will get to build a full-scale turbine and anchor it off Devon or Cornwall. The turbine, which is unlikely to begin operation before 2000, will have blades about 15 metres long; these will be pushed round by the ocean currents, typically about 2-3 metres per second (about 4-6 knots) and generate about 300 kilowatts. A cable will carry the energy

Giant windmills on the seabed may create vital energy, says Anjana Ahuja

on to land and feed it into the National Grid. Eventually, Mr Fraenkel envisages that there could be clusters of turbines dotted around British waters, silently and cleanly siphoning off the sea's limitless energy and pumping it into our homes. The cost of 6p per kilowatt hour is three times that of electricity produced by conventional means but it would drop if the turbines were mass-produced. There has been a successful small-scale test of the marine current concept in Scotland. That trial, using a 3.5 metre turbine, was done in conjunction with Scottish Nuclear, the idea fell by the wayside after Scottish Nuclear was taken over. But it gave an idea of the difficulties involved.

"We anchored a pontoon and hung the turbine underneath," says Mr Fraenkel. "But because the seabed was hard rock with a slimy covering, the chains dragged. So we now think the best approach would be to drill a hole and drop the turbine in. That way it stays there."

Seacore, a Cornish firm, will do the drilling. Other partners are the University of Kassel in Germany, and ITT Flygt, a Swedish firm that will manufacture the turbines. A study by marine biologists around Orkney and Shetland concludes that environmental impact would be minimal. The turbines, or sails, rotate so slowly that sea animals can move out of the way, and because all the action takes place in the water, noise is minimal.

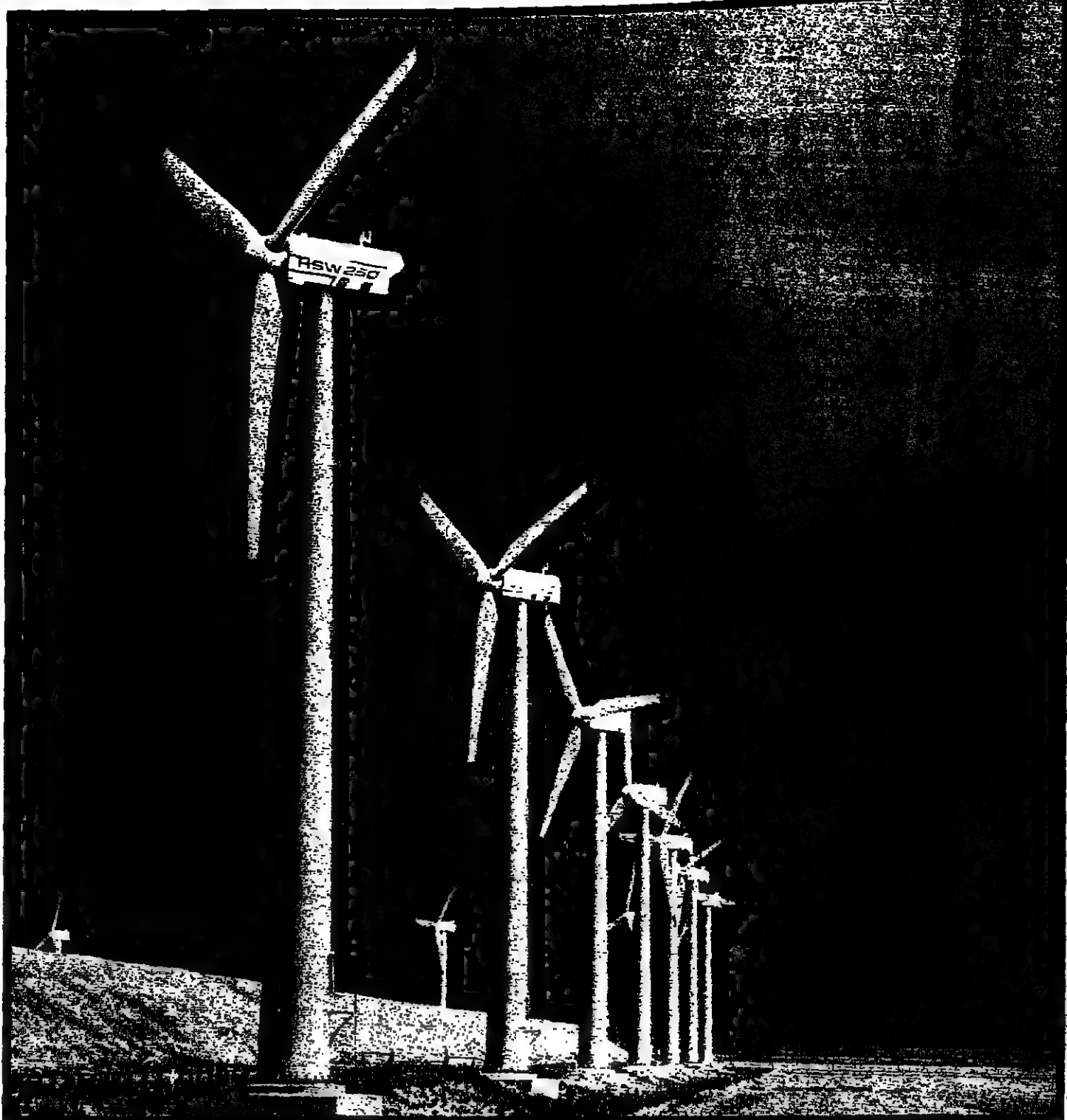
"If this gets off the ground, the biggest problem would be fishing nets getting caught in the turbines," Mr Fraenkel says. "There would need to be an exclusion zone for shipping, and we would need permission from Trinity House, which oversees shipping. But the strongest currents tend to be around rocky coastlines, which are hazardous anyway."

Wind farms, which have been springing up all over Britain, have been touted as the environmentally friendly way to produce energy. Yet underwater windmills have advantages over their land counterparts. They are less of an eyesore and noise nuisance (although there would need to be a sign of the turbines above water to alert ships). The currents also ebb and flow in a predictable way, unlike wind. And currents vary around the coast; even when one set of turbines isn't operating, another can take up the slack.

The outlook isn't all rosy. The turbines could be hazardous to operate and maintain in bad weather. Sea water corrosion must also be taken into account. But the system will weigh less because it is submerged. So steel and concrete, which are cheap and hardy, could be used for the turbines; land windmills use expensive plastics and carbon fibre.

If these underwater generators are such a good idea, why has it taken so long to try them out? The main reason, Mr Fraenkel says, is that offshore engineering is so much more sophisticated than it once was.

"To drill a hole in the seabed 20 years ago and drop a pile in would have been science fiction — and then everyone used coal and didn't give a damn about the environment. Also, the UK and EU have set targets for 10 per cent of all energy to come from renewable sources. We can't meet them unless we go into the sea."



Land or sea? Windmills are springing up throughout Britain, but underwater turbines offer power without disfiguring the landscape

Face the fats: sugar is not a diet disaster

NOBODY gets fat overnight, but many people do so during a decade or so.

A man of ideal weight at the age of 20, who puts on just a few pounds every six months, will be clinically obese by 35. In middle age such insidious weight gain becomes increasingly difficult to prevent. The answer, to judge by the re-

sults of a recent five-nation study, is to try to lose weight just as slowly and surely. And, as any dieter knows, most diets fail.

But the Carmen study (for Carbohydrate Manipulation in European National diets) achieved success by shifting to a diet lower in fat but higher in starches and sugars. Volun-

teers were taught to choose the right foods and they were allowed to eat as much as they wanted. The results were un-dramatic, but encouraging.

More than 300 overweight people from Spain, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany and Britain were put into one of three groups. One continued with their normal diet,

while the other two switched to diets lower in fat. Instead of receiving about 36 per cent of their food energy from fat, they got 30 per cent.

To make up for it, one of the lower-fat groups was encouraged to eat lots of starchy food — bread, potatoes and pasta — while the other combined such foods with sugar and

foods containing sugar. The aim was to discover not only whether those diets lower in fat cut weight, but whether they were sustainable over six months, and whether filling up on sugar negated the benefits.

The results, reported by Dr Wim Saris of Maastricht University in The Netherlands to the International Obesity Congress in Paris last week, show that both low-fat groups lost weight. The starch and sugar group lost on average 1.8kg (4lb) during the six months, and the starch alone group 0.94kg. The group that stuck with their normal diet gained 0.82 kg. If these rates of weight loss



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

could be sustained indefinitely, then they would make a big contribution to controlling the growing Western "epidemic" of obesity. In Britain 11 per cent of men between 35 and 49 are obese, while 11 per cent of women are obese by 35.

A particularly gratifying result for the sugar industry (which, together with the European Union, financed the Carmen study) was that eating sugar rather than other carbohydrates had no deleterious effects either in terms of weight loss or on cholesterol levels.

SA studies Sixties generation



SOUTH AFRICA'S electricity giant, Eskom, is looking at a nuclear technology that has been neglected since the Sixties. The company favours developing the high-temperature, gas-cooled reactor — a design that was explored in Europe and America before water-cooled reactors swept all before them. These reactors were technically successful but failed to be commercialised because of cutbacks in nuclear spending, and a failure to appreciate the inherent design advantages.

Eskom — one of the world's biggest electricity generators, with 38,000 megawatts of installed capacity — says that a high-temperature reactor, cooled by helium and fuelled by pebbles of uranium dioxide coated with silicon carbide, has many advantages. By operating at high temper-

atures using helium, which is chemically and radiologically inert, it would be possible to drive a gas turbine directly from the hot helium in a closed cycle — increasing thermal efficiency from the 35 per cent to 45 per cent.

The reactor would be intrinsically safe, since even if an accident occurred, heat loss from the fuel would always exceed the generation of decay heat, meaning that emergency cooling systems would not be needed. Eskom argues that these advantages would mean electricity generation at prices competitive with those of any other fuel. It estimates that a base load station operating for 40 years would produce power for less than 1p per kilowatt-hour. It is now looking for experts to carry out an environmental assessment of the design before deciding whether to build a pilot plant.

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In defence of the birds

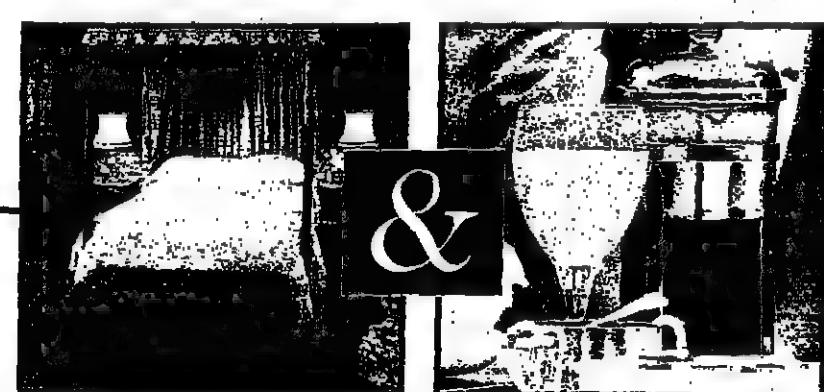


SOME ground-nesting birds go to heroic efforts to build ram-parts of flat stone in front of their nests. The blackstart, which lives in the deserts of the Middle East, is a small bird but the female will cheerfully spend four or five days fetching stones to create a mosaic several layers deep, up to 2ft wide and 3ft deep in front of the rock crevices where it nests.

Ornithologists have put forward many explanations, including protection from wind, a means of controlling temperature variations in the nest, simple sexual display, or discouraging predators. Dr Noam Leader and Dr Yoram Yom-Tov of Tel Aviv University watched blackstarts (*Cercomela melanura*) in En-Gedi nature reserve on the west shore of the Dead Sea to try to discover the true reason for a behaviour which is costly both in time and energy.

They conclude in *Animal Behaviour* that the stones serve not to deter predators, but to provide an early warning of their arrival. Birds which nest in crevices have nowhere to go if an animal such as the spiny mouse, a large omnivorous rodent, appears at the entrance. But if the mouse has to flit through a pebble rampart, surprise is lost and the bird can escape.

The zoologists found it almost impossible to approach blackstart nests without alerting the birds, even when they were 30ft or more away. But mice make much less noise, so to mimic their behaviour the scientists rigged up a nylon cord to a stone in the rampart and pulled. They found the noise this caused was quite sufficient to send the female rocketing from the nest.



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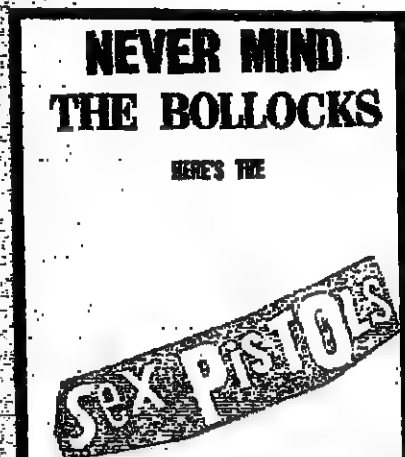
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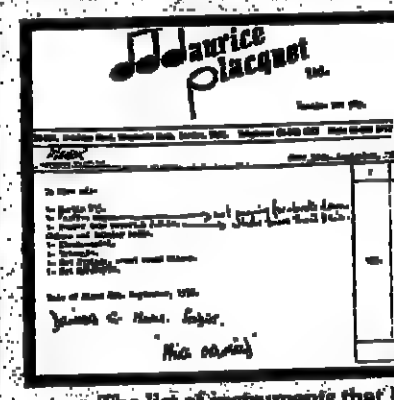
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RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

face as I ran down the road

Boy makes good: Culture Club's *Karma*, Chameleon hit No 1 in every country that had a chart; inside the Virgin shop

Gunning for Virgin: the offending album that led to a court case. Right: the first Virgin Records store, in Notting Hill



to reveal a dog collar. Professor Kingsley was also the Rev James Kingsley. "That's enough," snapped the magistrate. He straightened his back, squared his shoulders and, adopting as much magisterial solemnity as he could muster, announced: "The case is dismissed."

IN 1975, I HAD tried but failed to sign the Rolling Stones but I did come across them at the Virgin recording studios. I was there one weekend when they were lounging around the sitting room after an all-night session.

Keith Richards was still in bed with his girlfriend, a Jamaican. There was a crunch of gravel outside and a frenzied knocking at the door. The Stones were all lying around drinking coffee and waking up, so I got up and opened the door. A tall Jamaican in a purple jacket stood in front of me.

"Where is she?" he demanded, giving the name of the girl who was upstairs with Keith.

I had assumed that the girl was Keith's girlfriend. It was quickly clear that I was wrong. As I hesitated, he pulled out a gun and pointed it in my face.

As I looked speechlessly at the pistol, out of the corner of my eye I noticed two naked figures dipoicing out of a side door. It was Keith and the girl. They took a quick look at the Jamaican and then

broke into a sprint across the lawn behind him. I admired their speed. Keith's hair flapped up and down his white back as he tore along and hurdled the wooden fence in a great leap. The girl kept up with him, running as if her life depended upon it — which perhaps it did. They both cleared the railings, landed in the field and sped towards the river.

The Jamaican realised that my attention had wandered from his gun and spun round to follow my gaze. He saw the two bare bottoms, one black the other white, gave an inarticulate roar of rage and ran to his car. He revved up and tore off down the drive, trying to cut them off. I lost sight of them. I still wonder how they escaped.

MIKE OLDFIELD had been a lifelong introvert but now he wanted to get married. "How long have you known her?" I asked.

"Three days." "Don't you have to wait?" "I can't wait," he said. "She won't sleep with me until we're married. It's tomorrow, at Chelsea Register Office."

Having failed to talk him out of it, my wife Joan and I went along to the register office and waited for Mike and his bride. We brought two carved African stools with us as wedding presents. We put them down on the pavement outside and sat on them awaiting Mike's arrival.

Mike and Sarah were married and we gave them the stools. We had dinner together that night, but the evening ended early since Mike was so clearly intent on getting Sarah into bed. The next morning the phone rang.

"Richard, I want a divorce," it was Mike.

"What's wrong?" "We're not compatible," Mike said, in a voice that brooked no further questions. Mike and Sarah went more or less straight from the register office to the lawyers and he ended up paying her more than £200,000 in alimony. My mind boggles at what went on that night but whatever happened it must go down as one of the most expensive one-night stands in history.

FOR CHRISTMAS 1982, we released Culture Club's first album, *Kissing to Be Clever*, which sold four million copies around the world. And then in January came another amazing breakthrough: their fourth single, *Karma Chameleon*, was the top-selling single of 1983, selling more than 1.4 million copies in the UK and reaching No 1 in every country around the world that had a chart. Culture Club were a worldwide pop phenomenon and their second album, *Colour by Numbers*, sold almost ten million copies.

Virgin's finances were thrown upside down: from the £900,000 loss in 1980, we



made a profit of £2 million in 1982 on sales of £50 million. In 1983 our sales shot up to £94 million and our profits soared to £11 million. Once we had started the Boy George fan club, it was impossible to control it, and in 1983 40 per cent of our profits came from Boy George.

For the first two years the Culture Club story was the perfect model. The extraordinary thing about the record industry is

TOMORROW



'If I'm going to stop British Airways, then I'm going to need proof.'
How Branson took on Lord King, and the inside story of BA's 'dirty tricks' campaign

as we fanned the flames of Culture Club's success.

● Extracted from *Losing My Virginity: The Autobiography by Richard Branson*, to be published by Virgin Publishing on September 17 at £20. Times readers can buy it for £18 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0900 134459. Copyright Richard Branson 1998

Thanks a million, Prince Rupert

DURING that rather awkward patch between 1974 and 1976, when Mike Oldfield was our only superstar, I pitched unsuccessfully for the Rolling Stones. When I called up the Stones' manager, Prince Rupert Loewenstein, he was prepared to listen to me.

"How much are you asking for?" I asked him.

"You'll never be able to afford it," Prince Rupert told me sympathetically. "It'll be at least \$3 million. And, anyway, Virgin is just too small."

I knew that the only way to get his attention was to considerably better that offer.

"I'll offer you \$4 million," I told him. "As long as there is some back catalogue available."

Buying the back catalogue would enable Virgin to release a greatest hits album and would be a good insurance policy if the new record failed.

"I'll send you round the list of the back catalogue that's available," Prince Rupert said. "If you can bring a bank guarantee for \$4 million to my office by Monday, then I'll look at it very seriously. Best of luck."

That was on Friday. Prince Rupert assumed that he had set me an impossible task. That weekend I travelled around the chain of Virgin distributors we had set up across Europe in France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Sweden and Norway. As I travelled I was constantly on the telephone to those in the rest of the world. I was looking to raise about £250,000 from each distributor.

By Monday morning I was back in London but still some way short of the \$4 million. After adding up all the different commitments from the distributors, Courts promised to make up the difference. I drove round to Prince Rupert's house in Petersham



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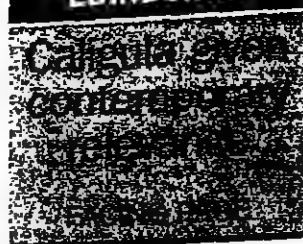
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MUSIC
Barenboim and
Chicago come
to the Proms
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

EDINBURGH



Show with all the frills: some of the Lady Boys of Bangkok strut their exceedingly simple stuff, but is it Pom, Vut, Nut or Oh? We'll never know

The sugar and spice boys

Glitering and fabulous, this world-touring show has one point of interest: its girls started life as boys. Some of them still are boys but are saving up to become girls, or so I am given to understand. The glossy programme is silent on this issue, as upon such others as the identities of the performers. Photos of delicately featured, sweetly smiling Thai appear alongside polysyllabic names but when it comes to finding out who is actually singing *I Will Survive*, *My Way* and, inevitably, *I Am What I Am*, all we are given is nicknames. The Spice Girls number, for instance, is sung by Tud Too, Ploy, Nong, Too and Lee: elsewhere we find Pom, Vut, Nut and Oh.

So here is a company of transsexuals and transvestites who usually perform in a club in Bangkok but are now strutting their simple stuff at a suitably named London venue. Eleven numbers in the first half, another 11 in the second. Each ends with a blackout, a pause ensues, then up go the lights for the next scene.



THEATRE

though we must wait for the costumes to tell us if we are now in Japan (fans), Hawaii (white furry doughnuts perched above their heads), China, Brazil or decadent Berlin. For the finale we get a grand staircase copiously iced with sparkles, and just short of two hours after the opening number we can go home.

The music comes with an insistent heavy beat and the words are mimed, which is the style for almost all drag cabaret, though the match of lip to sound is seldom as rudimentary as this. The plump singer, identified as June does manage to keep up with the twittering trills of a parody Italian aria, but elsewhere the synchronicity is erratic.

As for the choreography, this is truly basic. A step this way, a step that, bring the feet

together, start again. There's so little interest to be found in watching all this as dance or as mime that we are thrown back on wondering who has had the op and who not. I won't deny it: the less they wear the more intriguing (up to a point) this aspect of the show becomes. One or two costumes are too small to have names but what they cover indicates, so to speak, nothing.

When male dancers join the — what does one say? — the others, the contrast between the two sorts of leg is striking. Here is a leopard god in spotted underpants, black boots and pheasant feathers, and his thighs ripple with masculine musculature. Around him step slim, smooth legs that have no calves at all.

But after a while even this prurient speculation palls. The music bangs along, now funny, now fuzzy; on comes the next group of furs, gowns, feathered headresses and courteous smiles; the legs move about, frenziedly or not, and then it's the end at last.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Whatever the perceived virtues and vices of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, one thing is for sure. Its sturdy support of British Youth Opera, of which the Princess was Patron, has this year provided both a healthy number of bursaries for young singers to take part in BYO's intensive summer training programme, and a formidable night's entertainment into the bargain.

In Jamie Hayes's new production of *La Bohème* the bustle of the Latin quarter fills the stage before a note has sounded. And the energy of the outside world spills over into the icy garret as the horseplay of four robustly characterised Bohemians counterpoints vigorously with the deft and sharply detailed orchestral playing drawn from the pit by the conductor Roy Laughlin.

Laughlin is the head of music at the National Opera Studio, and doubtless made his own shrewd nominations to the cast: Terence den Duik, a resonant Marcello, has studied there and so has the

Life in the old gal yet

OPERA
La Bohème
Queen Elizabeth Hall

evening's Rodolfo, Peter Auty. His tenor is capacious and muscular: like 23-year-old Ee-Ping Lee's Mimì, her soprano rich with dark undertones and fearlessly integrated throughout its range. Auty's performance needs only the refinement of nuance to release the trison factor.

But it is thrilling to see such a youthful and red-blooded *Bohème*. Not only does this Mimì clearly have the breath to blow out an entire churchful of can-

dles, and this Rodolfo the ardour to fight his way back into her life: the entire Queen Elizabeth Hall comes alive with the swagger of this production.

Street-sellers throng the wings of the stage; the excellent children's chorus brightens the rapidly turning kaleidoscope of the Café Momus act; the Bohemians jostle, and even the band is positioned to play high up in the auditorium, sounding behind and around the audience.

The Café Momus also introduces Natalie Christie's irresistible Musetta. Her voice leaps out of her tiny, tense body like a champagne cork; and the glinting coloratura within is also able to expand into long lines of reflection which, particularly in the last act, still all around her.

Come to this *Bohème* prepared to be reinvigorated rather than to have the withers wrung, and to witness superbly coached Puccini being regenerated from the inside. There are further performances tomorrow and on Thursday.

HILARY FINCH

A split second of Birtwistle

By any standards the Chicago Symphony is a great orchestra. Landmarks in its century-long tradition include the tenures of the legendary Fritz Reiner and that of Georg Solti, who put the orchestra on the international map. Since he became music director in 1991 Daniel Barenboim has arguably raised the orchestra to even greater heights.

All praise to orchestra and conductor for offering a substantial, half-hour score by Harrison Birtwistle in the first of its pair of Proms, alongside Mahler's Fifth Symphony. This is an orchestra that likes to showcase its talents, revealing individual sonorities as though under a spotlight. The performances of both scores were brilliant in every sense, almost disconcertingly so.

The subtitle of Birtwistle's *Exodus*, commissioned by the orchestra and given its European premiere, is 23-59-59, a reference to the split second before the new millennium. Notions of time and continuity are central to the conception, as is that of a journey, expressed in the title *Exodus*. The journey traced in the work is analogous to a labyrinth, in which there is no single, obvious direction, but a multiplicity of routes. Birtwistle calls the process "fractured continuity".

In the early stages, a long string line unfolds, like the unwinding of Thebes's thread, but it is disrupted by brass outbursts and other distractions from generously endowed departments (triple wind, four trumpets, five percussionists).

PROMS
Chicago Symphony
Albert Hall, Radio 3

A pair of tubas and three rasping trombones continually stole the limelight in this performance — surely a miscalculation — but the sense of inexorability was impressively maintained. This is a rich score that will reveal more secrets after further hearings.

"Fractured" continuity might also describe the Mahlerian process, whereby fleeting impressions are moulded into a coherent structure. Contrary to expectations, Barenboim, whose handling of long-term, organic processes in Wagner and Strauss is second to none, failed to convince in his reading of the Fifth.

The opening funeral march was so glutinous, so lethargic that the cortège appeared to be stuck in the mud. The related music of the second movement sounded similarly laden. The orchestral playing overall was vibrant, adroitly executed and brightly coloured — indeed, too harshly lit for the waltzes in the third movement.

The concentrated string sound of the Adagio was perfectly realised, the rise and fall of emotion well gauged. More brilliance in the finale, but not even the stirring tunis could convince me that this was an organically conceived reading.

BARRY MILLINGTON

MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY: PAINTING OF THE DAY



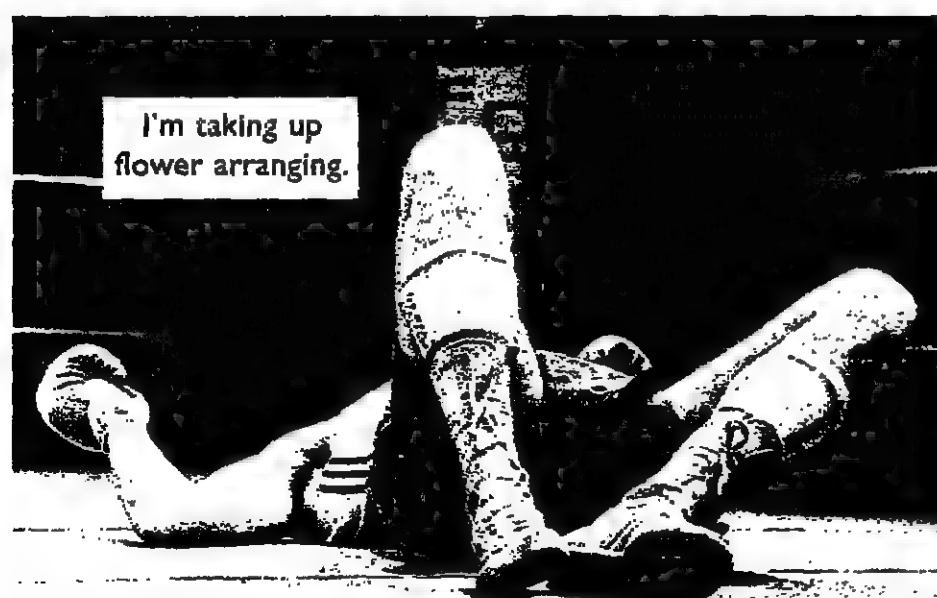
Each day this week
Richard Cork selects
outstanding paintings from
the forthcoming Royal
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TODAY: The Bridge over
the Water-Lily Pond, 1900

A DELECTABLE canvas painted ten years after Monet bought his house at Giverny celebrates the water garden he had constructed there. Inspired by his love of Japanese prints, the curving bridge and lily-strewn pond gave him a ready-made subject. Everything seems to be burgeoning with summer's richness: the

petal-heavy leaves suspended on the water, the fronds erupting frothily on the bank, and the dense, cascading branches of the weeping willow. Monet's brushstrokes are not yet as headlong as they would become in the 1920s. But they are already free enough to catch the overwhelming sensuousness of his private paradise.

Times readers have exclusive priority booking access to 50,000 tickets for the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition (Jan 23 to April 19, 1999), sponsored by Ernst & Young. Telephone Firstcall (0870 842 2200, booking fee £1.80 per ticket on first five tickets, £1.40 per ticket thereafter) by September 30



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One revival too many

A STYLISHLY dishevelled quartet of self-styled bohemians from Portland, Oregon, the Dandy Warhols sound like a walking compendium of Sixties rock influences. Fronted by their louche guitarist and chief songwriter Courtney Taylor, their largest London show to date on Friday night was warmly received but not exactly awash with originality.

Taylor's voice is husky but lacking in character, just as his songs are energetic but rarely inspired. Punctuating the set with cryptic hippyish proclamations, the willowy singer proved avuncular and droll, but his music exuded considerably less charm. It became clear very quickly that the Dandy Warhols have a severely limited stylistic repertoire, alternating between pseudo-mystical drones and bubblegum pop ditties.

Much of the set consisted of interchangeable generic numbers which clothed rudimentary Sixties-tinged melodies in lightly psychedelic trimmings, complemented by a filmed backdrop of throbbing ab-

POP
The Dandy Warhols
Empire, W12

stract visuals. But the mood was less like 1967 San Francisco than an early Eighties show by such "Paisley Underground" luminaries as Green On Red or Dream Syndicate, middling American bands who combined classic West Coast harmonies with post-punk attitude. The effect was rather like witnessing a revival of a revival.

Inevitably, the set's few peaks arrived with such Top 40 singles as *Not If You Were The Last Junkie On Earth*, an infectious satire on the hollow posturing of heroin chic, and *Every Day Should Be A Holiday*, a rare moment of bouncy dynamism whose melody cheekily echoes Duran Duran's 1982 hit *Rio*. Keyboard player Zia McCabe also gave a sweetly unpolished a cappella reading of the vintage Velvet

Underground ballad *After Hours*, before being rejoined by the rest of the band for a raucous encore of the Rolling Stones hit *The Last Time*.

Tellingly, this is probably where the band's true calling lies — as a competent Sixties cover band. And as long as they remain so uncritically in thrall to pop's lost golden age, the Dandy Warhols will never offer more than marginal curiosity value.

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Madam Butterfly



مكتبة من الأمل

How to save the monarchy

The public must vote on the head of state, says Tim Hames

The debate over the future of the Crown has hardly even started. This may come as a surprise, even an unpleasant shock, to those who thought that Buckingham Palace had succeeded in pacifying popular calls for change with its new, stick, emphasis on presentation.

In a report, *Modernising the Monarchy*, written by Mark Leonard and myself and published by Demos, we outline a blueprint for a new, more relevant, monarchy that can not only survive in the next century but will become stronger. Ours are only suggestions and we hope many others will make contributions.

There is no single right route to reform, but we believe there are certain basic principles essential for the new monarchy. These are that the current, outdated and cumbersome political functions of the Crown need to be abandoned; that the Royal Household needs to be abolished and replaced with a meritocratic, open and professional alternative; that the obscure financial arrangements surrounding the monarchy should be more accountable; that the archaic link between Crown and Church of England does not suit contemporary Britain; and that the monarchy should embrace a more diverse and dynamic symbolic role.

The needs of change were sown some time ago. The age of automatic deference was, rightly, destroyed by the social measures pursued by the Left in the 1960s and then the economic agenda pioneered by the Right in the 1980s. In our time, the idea that the monarchy has a right to exist simply because it always has, or because Parliament deems it convenient, is little short of farcical. The court that matters today is that of public opinion. The British people want neither an unreconstructed monarchy nor an outright republic. For too long ultra-traditionalists and ultra-radicals have conspired to make these the only options. We hope our document will show that there is a middle course.

The new monarchy would recognise the supremacy of public opinion. The vehicle for that would be an affirmative referendum held shortly after, and to confirm or not, a succession. The monarchy would withdraw from its current complicated political role that, as Peter Riddell noted on these pages last week, may become ever more controversial because of other constitutional changes that the Blair Government has introduced.

Only the political role of the monarchy justifies the existence of the Royal Household, staffed on a narrow basis that would never be tolerated in the Civil Service or a successful business, and permits the continuing secrecy that surrounds Royal finances. The Royal Household, as constructed, is the single largest threat to the monarchy's future. It is seen by most people as a sort of well-

fare state for the minor aristocracy.

In its place would come an Office of the Monarchy, staffed by high-flying civil servants and some specialist personal appointments. It would receive additional ideas from an advisory council drawn from all walks of life. Financial and other administrative matters would fall under the scrutiny of a House of Commons select committee. The deliberately remote Crown of the past would be no more.

The other formal area that cannot be avoided is the connection between the Crown and the Church of England. We believe that the monarchy cannot fully represent the whole population while it retains this exclusive relationship with a state church. It does not suit a largely secular society in which those who do practise religion are as likely to be Roman Catholic, Methodist or Muslim as Anglican.

The Prince of Wales recognised this in his "defender of faiths" remarks.

It also cannot make for coherent theology for the Church of England, which would probably benefit from full independence. The Lord may move in mysterious ways but the present settlement is incomprehensible.

The monarchy would then be free to expand upon what, at its best, it does best—symbolic, predominantly philanthropic, activity at home and the promotion of Britain abroad. We believe that a special emphasis could now be placed on education. There could be Queen's Awards for both the most successful and the most improving students, teachers, headmasters and schools. There could be an attempt at the proactive—adopting previously troubled schools at an early stage of their transformation and directing energy, time and resources towards supporting their efforts to improve. In our pamphlet we offer other examples of "active symbolism".

It will be said, correctly, that some of this is being done already. The Prince of Wales has made an admirable difference through his Prince's Trust. On the old rules, unfortunately, these innovations will be squeezed out, not deepened, when he becomes King, to make room for the formal, political, functions. We believe this is precisely the wrong sense of priorities. The unique formal functions should be squeezed out in favour of an ever more ambitious and imaginative symbolic role.

A modernised monarchy has a bountiful part to play in modern Britain and can reinvent itself in so doing. It remains to be seen whether the so-called monarchists will let it happen.

Modernising the Monarchy, by Tim Hames and Mark Leonard, is available from Demos from today, price £4.95.

From Little Rock to the Oval Office, Clinton trails a stench of depravity and corruption

On every count, a moral bankrupt

It is not a good idea to make a charismatic sociopath the leader of one's party, or the President of one's country.

When the Democratic Senator Bob Kerrey says that President Clinton's conduct is "immoral", he is entitled to say that. He lost a leg in Vietnam when Bill Clinton was dodging the draft in Oxford; he ran against Clinton for the nomination in 1992 and in 1996 observed that Clinton was "an unusually good liar".

When Senator Joseph Lieberman says that the President has "compromised his moral authority", he should add an apology of his own. Senator Lieberman should say "sorry" to the American people for helping to persuade them to elect and re-elect a morally defective President.

The psychological truth about Bill Clinton is relatively simple. He is not wholly a madman; he does not hate his fellow human beings, as Hitler did, nor does he wish them ill; he is obsessed with power and with women; he is a brilliant emotional campaigner, but there is a piece missing. He has no moral compass; he does not know right from wrong. This was always apparent in the way he acted as Governor of Arkansas, but the Democrats, the American press and, worst of all, the American public, chose to overlook that. It was equally apparent in his behaviour to hundreds of women. He had a standard operating technique, and had a staff to handle it. The women were called "bimbo eruptions"; the technique was called "rub-a-dub".

The "rub-a-dub" involved telling the women to lie about the affair; if there was still a risk that she would talk, she was offered the choice between a good job, if necessary on the federal payroll, or having her character blackened. Sometimes this was accompanied by physical threats, given

at second-hand; one woman has testified that an emissary of the Democrats threatened to "break her pretty legs". The Arkansas police say that they had to cover assignments with more than 100 women. Apparently President Clinton told Monica Lewinsky that he had connected with "some hundreds" of other women since he was first married. It is additive conduct; it is also a destructive abuse of women.

Yet this is the less important part of the President's moral blindness. In the Arkansas years, he helped in the cover-up of the mass importation of cocaine into Mena airport, of which there is evidence that he had knowledge. He set up the \$700 million Arkansas Development Finance Agency (ADFA), which made cronies loans in return for kickbacks to the Governor's political funds. The ADFA records have disappeared. His wife had corrupt partners in the Rose Law Firm whose records were shredded shortly after the death of Vince Foster, the former White House counsel.

Clinton was the associate of Arkansas criminals, including his bond-dealing friend Dan Lasater, convicted for a cocaine felony and pardoned by Clinton. Lasater's executive partner, Patsy Thomason, is still in the White House, and was one of those who went into Foster's office to clear up after his death.

Clinton failed to seek proper investi-

gation of the suspicious deaths connected to these scandals. The numbers are high: four Clinton associates died in doubtful circumstances; eight people investigating allegations also died; nine witnesses died. Of these 21 deaths eight were found to be suicides, including those of Vince Foster himself, of Kathy Ferguson, the former wife of the trooper who allegedly solicited Paula Jones, and of Ed Willey, the former manager of Clinton's campaign finance committee.

William Rees-Mogg

Five of the suspicious deaths occurred in plane crashes.

The pattern of abuse of public office continued in the White House, in raising funds for campaign finance, in the transfer of FBI files on political opponents, in the false prosecution of the White House travel staff. Some of the deaths occurred after Clinton became President. Jerry Parks, a private detective in Little Rock, was shot two months after Vince Foster's death. He had compiled a dossier on Clinton's sexual conduct, apparently at Foster's request. When Foster's

death was announced on television, Parks turned to his wife and said: "I'm a dead man."

Mrs Parks alleges that the Clinton dossier was stolen shortly before her husband's murder and that she had been unable to secure a satisfactory Arkansas police investigation. Arkansas politics have long been a violent and corrupt affair, and neither as Governor nor as President did Bill Clinton help to reform it.

The Republicans, Kenneth Starr and now the Democrats have concentrated on the sexual scandals. There are a number of reasons for this. The corrupt maladministration and fundraising are very difficult to prove. Heaven knows who did the Arkansas murders, or how many of the suspicious deaths were murders. They belong to the hinterland of corrupt Arkansas politics in which Bill Clinton operated. The American people do not want to recognise that their President is not only a sex addict but a deeply corrupt politician.

Yet this is far more than a sex scandal. Democratic congressmen running in the mid-term elections are distancing themselves from him and after the elections he will no longer have much power to reward or punish. The loaves and fishes will be provided, if at all, by the publishers. Monica Lewinsky's book is being offered for \$10 million.

After Watergate many of the partici-

pants, some of whom had gone to prison, wrote their accounts of the Nixon White House. What will Patsy Thomason's memoirs be worth? She knows what went on between Dan Lasater and Clinton in the old days; she knows what she found in Vince Foster's office; she knows the reality of Bill and Hillary's relationship.

The next two years will see more and more of the truth coming out. Some of it may even exonerate Clinton from particular allegations. Unfortunately, much of it will be like the evidence of Monica Lewinsky or Gennifer Flowers, at first denied and then proved to be true. Once Clinton admitted that he had lied about Lewinsky, all the other lies he has told have ceased to work.

Clinton's position is therefore likely to get worse and worse, as the Starr report is published, as the evidence continues to flood out, and his party rejects him. The American people will begin to understand how defective he always was, how willing to abuse his power.

On *The Frost Programme* yesterday Chris Patten said he thought the best thing to happen would be for the American people to turn over the Clinton leaf and let him finish his term of office. If it were all only about Monica Lewinsky that might be possible, but there are too many other scandals. Miss Lewinsky was the norm, not the exception. There cannot be a clear-cut resolution of the Clinton scandals so long as he remains in the White House.

The authority of the President of the United States depends on public confidence in his moral character. Clinton now has no moral authority in politics than Robert Maxwell, another charismatic sociopath, had in business.

Is our end really nigh?

Labour's economic strategy faces its toughest test, says Peter Riddell

The hardest test for any government is to do nothing when the news is bad. A media and presentation-obsessed administration such as the present one is particularly vulnerable to siren voices urging that "something must be done". Often, a hurriedly cobbled together something is worse than doing nothing. The Blair Government faces this predicament now over the Russian crisis, upheavals in global markets and a series of big redundancies at home.

Gordon Brown has said very little in public since returning from holiday in late August—a silence that is as significant as his usual loquaciousness. The Treasury view is that saying too much can damage rather than assist confidence. But a lot is going on in private, both internally and in consultations among Group of Seven governments. New assessments are being prepared, but there are no firm conclusions, since no one knows how bad things could get. However, as one senior official put it, Whitehall as a whole has not really woken up to how far the world has changed.

Tony Blair and President Clinton have repeated familiar phrases about continuing with necessary reforms in Russia, but this is to bridge the gap until it is clear what form of government emerges and what political support it has. There will have to be some idea of what minimum conditions are feasible before Western governments even consider support for stabilisation programmes and longer-term structural reforms.

The main importance of Russia is political, given its still vast nuclear arsenal, rather than economic, since it remains a minor player in the global economy. More worrying in the eyes



of the Treasury are the Far East (the policy paralysis in Japan and fears over Hong Kong and China) and last week's shockwaves through Latin American markets. Troubles in the latter could hit American exports and banks badly, directly affecting the United States' economy, and hence the rest of us.

The Chancellor's advisers accept that the risks for the British economy have increased and that conditions could get much worse in the next few weeks. But they still believe that a UK recession is not inevitable. They argue that our economy is in a healthy condition to withstand such external shocks. Moreover, slowdowns have usually turned into lengthy recessions only because of policy errors—most spectacularly in the 1930s, but also in October 1987. Central banks

then responded to a temporary tumble in share prices by cutting interest rates, which aggravated existing inflationary pressures.

The Brown camp argues that the right policy decisions have already been taken. Unlike the late 1980s, the economy is starting to show after the monetary squeeze applied by the Bank of England, while the public finances are in good shape. So even if the economy slows more sharply than expected, there is no need to do anything dramatic now. That is still the consensus view, but there are now more risks on the downside.

The Chancellor is already facing calls to relax policy. TUC leaders will meet the Prime Minister later today to urge a broadening in the terms of reference of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee from focusing just on inflation to consider also growth and unemployment. Such calls will be rejected, since they would undermine the Bank's anti-inflation credentials and guarantee muddle in policymaking.

Many in industry and the unions want an immediate cut in interest rates to relieve pressure on the pound and on exporters. However, the latest closures of the Fujitsu plant in Mr Blair's constituency in the North East, and the Siemens one in the north by constituency of Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary, are little to do with the strong pound but are directly the result of the collapse in the world semiconductor market caused by the Asian recession.

Nor does it make sense to cut taxes, or increase public spending. A sizeable relaxation is already planned over the next three years, particularly in public investment, which will start to work through from next spring. Even though Mr Brown always talks about the importance of the long-term and avoiding short-term fine-tuning, such an increase will operate in a classically Keynesian counter-cyclical way to offset the slowdown elsewhere in the economy. Indeed, there are worries that Mr Brown has taken too many risks with spending, and borrowing. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, argued last week that the Government's spending plans were always based on "hopelessly over-optimistic" economic assumptions but "have now been blown out of the water". The Brown camp claims that a safety-margin has been built in, but that could quickly disappear in a recession.

The Government hopes that the impact of redundancies can be softened by various micro measures to encourage further investment (such as those announced for the North East by Peter Mandelson on Friday) and by the already-funded New Deal programme to assist the unemployed back into work.

The most serious challenge for the Blair-Brown strategy may be ideological. A central plank of new Labour is support for globalisation: free trade and investment flows and a limited role for government in providing stable fiscal and monetary conditions. That is under challenge from mavericks such as Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, with his attacks on the free-market system, while the likely jump in cheap Asian exports into the United States may strengthen demands for protectionist measures. Moreover, implicit in the latest protests by union leaders and Labour MPs is that free markets have failed and that the Government should intervene to safeguard the British economy from these global storms. Such calls are likely to grow and resisting them will test the political will of the Prime Minister and Chancellor, and the more fair-weather of new Blairite MPs. This may become the old/new Labour faultline of the next two years.

Claws are out

WAYNE SLEEP has failed to display the dexterity of Mr Mistofleeles. The dancer (pictured left) had hoped to wangle a part in Trevor Nunn's home entertainment video of *Cats* after his success in the original stage production in which he played T.J. Elton's magical moggy. But when he was informed by the artistic director of the Royal National Theatre (right) that he would have to audition like everyone else, Sleep refused: "They wanted to see if I could still dance. It was an outrage." The 1981 West End production of *Cats*, directed by Nunn, launched Sleep's career. *The Times* review wrote of "isolated moments of bravura direction, such as Wayne Sleep's balletic irruption as Mr Mistofleeles".

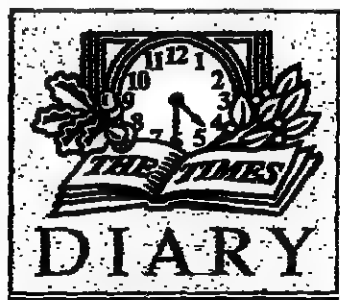
Four years later, he was dancing with Diana, Princess of Wales, at the Royal Opera House. Sleep celebrated his 50th birthday earlier this year with a show in London to raise money for his Sleep Dance Scholarship, where he performed a sprightly tribute to the late Princess. Either Nunn and his colleagues remained unimpressed with the dancer's display of agility, or they remembered his performances behind the scenes first time round.

During the show's first long run, wardrobe managers would complain to Nunn of Sleep's backstage tantrums. Whatever the reason for the dancer being passed over, he has not taken the snub well. When they knocked into each other not so



long ago, Nunn purred: "I simply must tell you the saga of my new *Cats* video." Sleep snapped back: "I just don't care about the saga of your new video." Perhaps the dancer should have offered to play Old Deuteronomy, the cat who is getting somewhat whiskery.

● NOEL GALLAGHER has bought the ultimate in council estate chic. He is now the proud owner of an Anatolian karabash, a



ten-stone mastiff from Turkey, which, I am assured, is far classier than a common rottiweiler.

Last laugh

MARK THOMAS, who has done awfully well in the past year out of disparaging Tony Blair and his friends, has accepted a position with the Government. The alternative comedian is advising Gordon Brown about reforming tax to ensure that wealthy types cannot wriggle out of paying their dues.

Thomas was invited after his revealing exposé of the likes of Nicholas Soames, whom he showed avoided paying inheritance tax on family heirlooms by listing them as available to public inspection when they were not. The programme was quoted approvingly in Parliament. "I have been asked to draw up draft

guidelines and I am currently talking to the Inland Revenue," he says. But will Thomas be so keen on defeating tax avoidance when he himself joins the ranks of millionaire comedians such as Ben Elton?

● THE cost of indulging a basic instinct. A journalist at the Venice Film Festival asked Michael Douglas: "How do you invest your mountain of money?" The actor, who once admitted he was addicted to sex, responded: "It's become very small since I divorced."

Remaindered

IRVINE WELSH is among those believed to have failed to make the



long list of 20 titles for this year's Booker Prize for Fiction. Joining the author of *Trainspotting* on the reject pile are David Cauter, Les Murray and Alan Warner.

Newer names who are thought still to have a chance of making the shortlist include Sebastian Barry, Derek Beavan and Shani Mootoo. Beryl Bainbridge, for *Master George* is, as ever, a strong contender and tipped for great things. Literary types will have to wait for just over a fortnight to find out who has made the grade.

● My congratulations to Sophie Rhys-Jones (pictured left). Prince Edward's arrest has passed her motorcycle driving test. Whether he will ride pillion has yet to be seen.

Lèse-majesté

GLENDIA JACKSON is a fan of Dick Francis. Although they have yet to meet, the Transport Minister employed an emissary to obtain a signed copy of the writer's latest tales from the racetrack when he was holding court at the Ritz the other day. "She has got all his books," her sidekick told me. Francis, who counts John Major and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother among his most loyal readers, appeared at first to be equally gushing, praising Jackson's perform-



ance as Elizabeth I. Until, that is, I glimpsed his flourish in the book for the woman who has given up the stage for Parliament: "Hope to see you on the screen again soon."

● IN THE run-up to the launch of Sir Edward Heath's memoirs, the publishers have already upset the former Prime Minister. Behind his back, Hodder & Stoughton brought forward the book's launch by a week so that it landed in the middle of the Tory party conference in Bournemouth next month. Once Sir Edward found out, he insisted on the original date. I always knew he was a good sort.

Bristol fashion

THE good burghers of Bristol are a rum lot. Later this week, *The Matthew*, a replica of John Cabot's 15th-century vessel, is due in the city after seafaring adventures. But an official has threatened to arrest the crew on their triumphant arrival for non-payment of council tax.

EDWARD WELSH

مكتبة ابن الأثير

OBITUARIES

AKIRA KUROSAWA



Akira Kurosawa, Japanese film director, died in Tokyo yesterday aged 88. He was born on March 23, 1910.

Akira Kurosawa was the man who almost single-handedly introduced Japanese cinema to the West. When his film *Rashomon* was shown at the 1951 Venice Festival it made an enormous impression and took the top award of the Golden Lion. Yet to that point Japanese films were little known outside Asia. After *Rashomon* it was clear to critics that they could no longer be ignored.

A prodigious talent, who belongs with the handful of great artists to have worked in the cinema medium, Kurosawa combined an epic historical vision with a deep feeling for humanity. He had a complete mastery of the formal aspects of film, which he combined with a flair for powerful composition and vivid imagery. He told his stories with a deceptive economy of effort that concealed a complex mind.

Dubbed "the Emperor" because of his autocratic manner, he built a reputation as the most Western of Japanese directors, freely acknowledging the influence of old Hollywood masters like King Vidor and John Ford and often enjoying a higher reputation outside his own country than in it. For several of his films he drew on Western literary sources, particularly Shakespeare and Maxim Gorky, but also the American thriller writer Ed McBain.

The West, in turn, paid him the compliment of remaking some of his best-known works, generally in a manner which demonstrated the effortless superiority of the originals. Thus, *Rashomon*, in Kurosawa's hands a subtle exploration of different perceptions of a violent incident taking place in medieval Japan, became *The Outrage* in 1964, a spectacularly ineffective vehicle for Paul Newman. *The Seven Samurai* (1954) enjoyed a bet-



A scene from Kurosawa's film *The Seven Samurai*, featuring his favourite actor, Toshiro Mifune

ter fate at Hollywood's hands. It was the inspiration for *The Magnificent Seven* (1960) a good action picture fielding a clutch of stars, which only looked inferior when it tried to engage with the strangeness and subtlety of the Japanese ambience. *Yojimbo* (1961), another wry exploration of the samurai ethos, turned up in 1964 as the Sergio Leone film, *A Fistful of Dollars*, starring Clint Eastwood, thereby launching the spaghetti western.

Kurosawa also provided the script basis for the gripping jailbreak movie *Runaway Train* (1985), made in America by the expatriate Russian director, Andrei Konchalovsky and starring Jon Voight.

Akira Kurosawa was born in Tokyo, the youngest of eight children of an army officer, and developed in his youth a passion for the European and American silent cinema. After trying unsuccessfully to make a living as a commercial artist, he answered a newspaper job advertisement requiring candi-

dates to write an essay on the basic faults in Japanese cinema. As a result he was taken on as assistant director by a film company.

After scriptwriting and wartime documentaries, he made his debut as a feature director in 1943 with *Sanshiro Sugata*, which became a hit in wartime Japan. In the next seven years he made another ten films which did well in the domestic market before *Rashomon* brought him international recognition. Set in the 11th century, *Rashomon* was a study in ambiguity which offered four different, and equally plausible, versions of the same incident, in which a nobleman is attacked by a bandit and his wife apparently raped. In addition to its Golden Lion, it won a Hollywood Oscar for best foreign film.

Kurosawa followed it with *Ikuru* (Living), a perceptive and often amusing film about a Tokyo bureaucrat with only a few months to live who is determined to use them in the

most fulfilling way. In contrast to this quiet chamber piece, *Seven Samurai* was the story of a group of warriors hired to defend a village against bandits. The affinities with the Western were obvious and Hollywood was not slow in taking the hint.

In 1957 Kurosawa turned to Shakespeare for *Throne of Blood*, a version of the Macbeth story transposed to 16th-century Japan. The Macbeth figure was played by Toshiro Mifune, who appeared in most Kurosawa films between 1948 and 1965, when a quarrel ended their partnership.

Mifune was also the star of *Yojimbo* (1961), playing an unemployed samurai who settles a feud between two groups of townspeople by playing one off against the other, and of *Red Beard* (1965), as a doctor ministering to the poor. In between, Kurosawa made *High and Low*, a contemporary thriller about a kidnapping, from a story by Ed McBain.

In 1967 Kurosawa was suffi-

ciently established internationally to be invited by Darryl F. Zanuck to Hollywood to co-direct *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, an account of events leading up to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. But after only nine days of shooting Kurosawa left the film, ostensibly for reasons of health, in fact after a dispute with the studio over artistic freedom.

The episode started a bleak period in Kurosawa's career. In 1970 he returned to Maxim Gorky's story of down-and-outs, *The Lower Depths*, which he had previously filmed in the 1950s. But *Dodeska-den* (1970), his first film in colour, was poorly received and its critical and commercial failure left him so depressed that he tried to commit suicide by slashing his wrists.

His next film, *Dersu Uzala*, a tale of a Russian surveyor mapping the Siberian wastes, did not appear until 1975, and was made not in Japan but the Soviet Union. Shot in Siberia,

it was the second Kurosawa film to win an Oscar. When he did at last return to film-making in Japan with *Kagemusha* in 1980, it was partly thanks to money arranged by two Hollywood admirers, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas. A fable about a condemned thief who doubles for a warlord, it shared the top award at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 1984, in his 74th year, Kurosawa finally realised a long-cherished project, *Ran*, adapted from Shakespeare's *King Lear*, with sons substituted for the daughters and a transvestite cabaret artist cast as the fool. The most expensive film ever made in Japan, it combined an awesome spectacle with a piercing view of the human tragedy and showed that although Kurosawa had reached the veteran stage, he had lost none of his creative energy.

Kurosawa was married to the actress Yoko Yaguchi, who died in 1985. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

BRIGADIER
F. H. B. INGALL

Brigadier Francis Ingall, DSO, OBE, died in California on August 21 aged 89. He was born on October 24, 1908.

IN A varied life as soldier, sportsman, actor and one-time honorary consul, Francis Ingall valued above all his wartime command of the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers in Italy and later his role as founder-commandant of the Pakistan Military Academy, Mechanised in India in 1940, the 6th Lancers served in Iraq in 1941 when the pro-British Regent Emir Abdullah was overthrown by the pro-Axis General Rashid Ali. After the restoration of Abdullah they went with the 8th Indian Division to Persia to counter the German threat to the oil fields in 1942.

After the invasion of Italy the 8th Indian Division landed at Brindisi in October 1943 and from then on the 6th Lancers fought their way northwards with the Eighth Army. Towards the end of the Italian campaign they took part in the British 5th Corps' offensive across the River Senio, in which they protected the right flank of the 8th Indian Division. The citation to the DSO Ingall was awarded records: "He fought his regiment with skill, cunning and daring. As the battle developed he seized every fleeting opportunity and by vigorous offensive action cleared pockets of the enemy, greatly aiding the advance to the Argenta Gap."

Thereafter he led the 6th Lancers in the advance from the Po to the Adige, keeping a weakened enemy on the run. As a result he was able to seize bridges over the Po's lateral tributaries before the Germans could blow them up.

At the end of the war in Europe Ingall returned to India as chief of staff of the 8th Indian Division. After partition in 1947 and the division of the old Indian Army between India and Pakistan, Ingall was selected by the C-in-C India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, as first commandant of the Pakistan Military Academy, established at Kakul.

He determined to model the Pakistan Academy on Sandhurst and requested a regimental sergeant major from the Brigade of Guards to help with training. He was lucky, too, to have the support of a number of old Indian Army officers who transferred to the Pakistan Army, among them Lieutenant-Colonel Atiquar Rahman. In spite of facilities

which were nowhere near the level of those enjoyed by the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, Ingall won the confidence of his cadets and instructors. When, late in 1947, the dispute over the accession of Jammu and Kashmir led to armed conflict between India and Pakistan, he was able to structure the Academy's training to enable newly commissioned officers to be immediately effective when they joined units on active service.

Ingall was appointed OBE after completing his term as commandant in 1950. What probably gave him more satisfaction was the decision to name Kakul's central lecture theatre Ingall Hall — though this was not built until many years after he had left. He kept in touch with the academy for the rest of his life, making his last visit as recently as last year when he took questions from an audience of 800 cadets in the hall named after him.

Francis Herman Barclay Ingall was born at Oxted, Surrey, and educated at Hurstpierpoint College and Sandhurst from where he was commissioned into the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers in the Indian Army in 1929. His first action with the regiment was at Karawal on the North West Frontier where he led a cavalry charge with drawn sword. In those pre-war years he frequently played polo for his regiment.

After leaving his post at the Pakistan Military Academy, Ingall was for some years a director of Killick Nixon in Bombay. But in 1959 he took ship with his third wife to San Francisco and spent the rest of his life in the United States where he was a vice-president of several corporations, and president of the chamber of commerce of Tiburon, California, besides serving as honorary consul-general for Pakistan in San Francisco. He founded the Queen's Club in San Francisco in the early 1960s to foster friendship between the American and British Armed Forces.

He also acted in a number of professional stage productions, spoke on radio and television and lectured widely to university groups and local organisations. Ingall was a specialist of his own autobiography, *The Last of the Bengal Lancers*, was published in 1988; he and his wife ran a restaurant, The Bengal Lancer, in San Francisco.

Ingall is survived by his third wife, Margaret, and by a son and daughter of his first marriage. A son of his third marriage died as a child.



Ingall: commanded the Pakistan Military Academy after serving in Italy with the 8th Indian Division

ROY BRADFORD

Roy Bradford, MP for Stormont, 1965-1973, Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, 1973-74, writer, novelist and broadcaster, died on September 2 aged 77. He was born on July 7, 1921.

ROY BRADFORD will be chiefly remembered as a member of the ill-fated Northern Ireland Assembly of 1973-74, which had arisen out of the Sunningdale agreement of 1973. He was part of the liberal camp which followed Brian Faulkner into talks with the largely Catholic Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) in an effort to reach some sort of power-sharing devolved government in the wake of the abolition of Stormont.

The Sunningdale agreement was dealt a fatal blow in February 1974 when, despite ardent protests from John Hume, the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, called a snap general election at the height of the miners' strike, providing an opportunity for hardline Unionists to demonstrate the weight of anti-power-sharing sentiment. Under the banner

of the United Ulster Unionist Council (UUUC), they obliterated the ill-prepared and disorganised Faulknerite Unionists at Westminster, winning 11 of the Province's 12 seats.

Bradford, who had been appointed to Faulkner's Cabinet in November of the previous year, was the only member of the Executive to stand for Westminster. Canvassing under the banner "Ulster Unionist Pro-Assembly", he unsuccessfully campaigned for the seat of North Down where he was beaten by the UUUC candidate James Kilfedder, by a margin of over 16,000.

These were testing times for the beleaguered and deflated Executive, and cracks began to emerge. Bradford was criticised by other members for publicly expressing reservations about the deal, and in May 1974, when the loyalist Ulster Workers' Council called a strike in an effort to scupper Sunningdale, he made himself unpopular by making repeated demands that the Executive hold negotiations with the loyalist strikers.

He twice offered his resignation to Faulkner. Although he was sympathetic to the work-



West. In October he urged his constituents to vote for the hardliner William Craig for the Belfast East seat. By this time Bradford's role in national politics was finished.

Such vocal support for Craig, whose Vanguard party relied on considerable support and muscle from the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, was a remarkable move for Bradford. He had entered Stormont on a liberal ticket, elected as Northern Irish MP for the Victoria ward, East Belfast, in 1965.

By 1968 he had become Chief Whip and a year later, was made Minister of Commerce in the Province.

By late 1973 Bradford was being tipped by many in the Irish media as the next leader of the Ulster Unionists. Despite being somewhat short on modesty, he was both popular among his working-class Protestant constituents of East Belfast, and like Gerry Fitt, was liked by many in London and Dublin as a calm, clever and friendly figure.

Roy Bradford was a far cry from the stereotypical dour Ulsterman: he was a liberal and literate man who spent much

time south of the border and across the Irish Sea. Born in Belfast to a father from Monaghan, after studying at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, he went to Trinity College Dublin, which in the 1940s remained one of the last bastions of southern Unionism. He maintained his interests in Dublin and the South (in 1994 he suggested that the Republic of Ireland might one day rejoin the Commonwealth) and was friendly with such southern liberals as Conor Cruise O'Brien.

After graduating in 1942 with a first-class degree in German and French, he worked in Army Intelligence in France and Germany. In 1950 he went to live in London where, aside from insurance and restaurant interests, he worked as a writer and broadcaster for BBC and ITV. He had several short stories published in the *London Evening Standard*, and in 1960 published his first novel *Excalibur*.

After the miners' strike of 1974 Bradford campaigned unsuccessfully as a member of the similarly ill-fated Northern Ireland Convention. In the 1980s he advocated a forum to

discuss areas of common interest between Protestants and Catholics. He was elected as Ulster Unionist to North Down Borough Council in 1989, and in 1995 became Mayor of North Down, a post he used to criticise the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Nevertheless, during the peace process of recent years he remained enthusiastic about all-encompassing dialogue. Sinn Féin included.

Bradford was president of the Northern Ireland European Movement and in 1981 published his second novel, *The Last Dutch*, a barely fictional account of a Stormont Prime Minister and his efforts to resist rule from Westminster. His last work, *Rogue Warrior of the SAS*, a biography of Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. "Paddy" Mayne, was published in 1987.

Roy Bradford was a keen golfer and a member of the Noise Abatement Society. He was sworn of the Privy Council of Northern Ireland in 1969.

His wife Hazel, whom he married in 1946, predeceased him in 1994. He is survived by his two sons.

Latest wills

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, retired farmer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Northern Ireland Office 1974-76, Minister for the Arts 1976-79, Director Royal Opera House 1983-74, of London SW11, left estate valued at £650,791 net.

Lady Clayton, wife of the late Sir Robert Clayton, of Stanmore, Middlesex, estate valued at £1,188,549 net.

She left shares in her residuary estate to set up a fund to be known as the Sir Robert and Lady Clayton Fund to the Master Fellows and Scholars of Christ's College, Cambridge University.

Lady Hall, first wife of Sir John Hall, Bt. of Albury, Ware, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £881,582 net. She left £2,500 to Albury

PCC, Hertfordshire; £1,500 to Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, London SW7; £500 each to Children of the Andes, London EC2, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and Church of Scotland; £250 each to Hertfordshire Conservation Society and Home Farm Trust of Bristol and to Messrs Crouch and Haskings of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, towards their next Christmas party.

Lady Jones, of Staplehurst, Kent, left estate valued at £208,370 net.

Lady (Algie) O'Connor, of Amesbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £447,709 net.

Lady Worboys, of Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,579,083 net.

Meredith Noel Humphreys, chartered electrical engineer, of Llandudno, Gwyn-

edd, left estate valued at £12,590,956 net.

He left £2,000 to the Benevolent Fund of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Derrick Allix Pease, of London SW3, left estate valued at £6,040,951 net.

Peter Lowley Peake, of Rd. Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £4,382,608 net.

William James Austin, of Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford, left estate valued at £2,501,863 net.

Edith Clara Cobb, of Liphook, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,746,954 net.

Arthur Kingscote Potter, retired civil servant, of Midhurst, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,946,806 net.

He left £1,000 each to Abbeyfield Society and L. Barnardos.

John Cedric Thistlethorn-Smith, of Fakenham, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,615,310 net.

He left £2,000 to the London Association for the Blind; £1,000 each to Wine Trade Foundation Society, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Norfolk County Cricket Club.

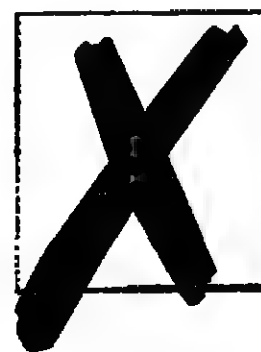
£500 each to Malvern College, West Norfolk Cricket Club and Little Snoring Village Hall and Playing Field Association.

Alan Thomson, of Carlton, Nottingham, left estate valued at £1,326,885 net.

Robert David James Walker, of London NW11, left estate valued at £1,019,999 net.

Alfred Lionel Frederick Woodriss, of London W4, left estate valued at £1,124,090 net.

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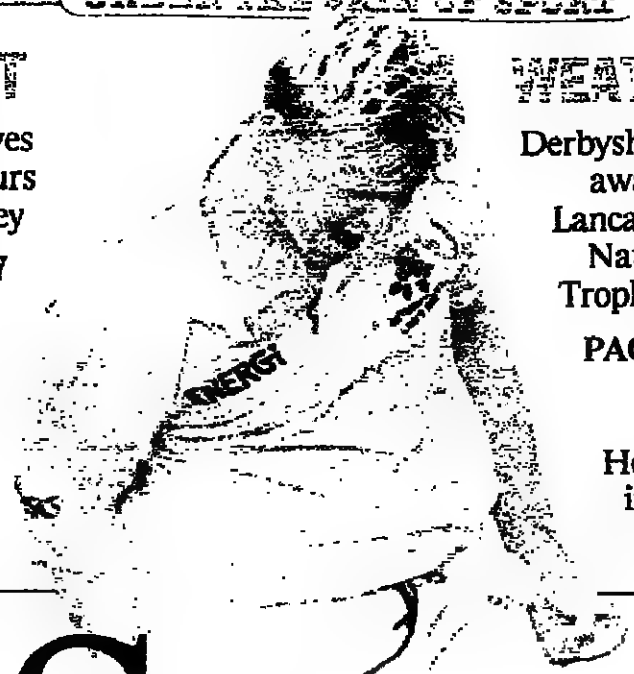
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

CREDIBILITY GAP WIDENS FURTHER FOR ENGLAND



England's poor display in Stockholm gave Hoddle few reasons to be cheerful. Yesterday, however, he argued that the 2-1 defeat against Sweden was not a calamity. Photograph: Russell Boyce

Hoddle stays calm amid storms around England

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN STOCKHOLM

THE missiles are being hurled at him with increasing force and regularity, but still they bounce off Glenn Hoddle's wall of self-conceit. "Do I look like someone who is distraught?" the England coach asked on Saturday in the aftermath of England's 2-1 collapse in Sweden. To be fair to him, he did not.

Defeat at the Rasunda Stadium here, as Hoddle argued long and hard, was not a calamity. It has, though, further stocked the arsenal that can be turned on the England coach and the heavy shelling is likely to get worse before it gets any better.

The ignominious display has turned his next European Championship qualifying match, at home to Bulgaria in five weeks, into a must-win game. Even from this distance, there is an ominous look of more storms ahead.

Hoddle will have to field a team that will certainly be without David Beckham and Paul Ince, who suspended; Darren Anderton and David Batty are highly doubtful. In short, he will be robbed of the heart of his team. What was already sure to be a tense occasion will now be a fraught one, and it will take more than the combined soothing powers of Eileen Drewery and Kenny G to guide England safely through.

Hoddle remains confident of qualification for the championships and one defeat was hardly likely to destroy that notion. As he was quick to point out on Saturday evening, England lost a World Cup qualifying game at home to Italy and still finished top of their group. "It's not a disaster," he said. "It is too early to say that."

The coach's credibility is coming increasingly under siege however

and the defeat on Saturday made laughable the notion Hoddle expressed in his World Cup diary that "it should have been me" lifting the World Cup. If it did not sound like self-satisfying nonsense a week ago, it certainly does now.

Hoddle attempted to play down the effects of the endless book controversies, but his case was undermined by his own captain, who admitted that minds had been led astray by the serialisation sagas. How could it be any other way when so much unease has been allowed to fester?

"I couldn't understand how it all went wrong," Alan Shearer said, "and I don't think all the crap that went on before the game helped, all the stuff about books and all the publicity. It didn't affect me because

my skin is thick but it could have affected others. One thing is for sure, it certainly didn't help.

"In the circumstances it is the worst possible result because we could have killed off all of this and instead we have allowed it to continue."

- Ireland triumph 28
- Haunted Hoddle 29
- Lynne Truss 29
- European results 30

ue. I wish we could play on Saturday and get this out of our system. Instead we have a long wait which will allow it all to build up again."

Despite this pessimism, Shearer insisted that the panic button should

not be pressed and that there should be no speculation about Hoddle's job. The England coach hardly helped himself in that regard, however, by initially declining opportunities to rule himself out of the running for the vacancy at his former club, Tottenham Hotspur.

"I've got a contract with the Football Association for the next two years and there are talks around the corner," he said after much pressing. "Nothing has changed from a few weeks ago. Of course it hurts, it hurts immensely. But there is a difference from the World Cup because this was the start of a campaign: Argentina was the end."

Hoddle must secure victories over Bulgaria and then away to Luxembourg next month to ensure that this

campaign still has plenty of life left in it, but his team is certain to be badly weakened, with Ince's dismissal on Saturday a terrible blow.

The Liverpool midfielder player is certain to be given a one-match ban. Worse could await if Pierluigi Collina, the Italian referee, reports the 30-year-old for his shameful actions on being shown the red card.

After screaming three words of abuse in the official's face — the nicest of which was "bald" — Ince had to be restrained by Shearer, and compounded his loss of temper by flicking a V-sign to the crowd as he walked to the tunnel. If any of the incidents are reported by Collina or Mathieu Spengler, the Uefa delegate, Ince's suspension could be increased.

Anderton also seems certain to be absent. He had a scan on the knee which gave way in the first half and is expected to be out for six to eight weeks with ligament strain. Mrs Drewery can expect a knock on the door. Batty is also struggling as he recovers from an operation on his Achilles tendon.

Beckham will still be suspended after his red card against Argentina during the World Cup, so after not having anyone dismissed since Ray Wilkins 12 years ago, England have now lost a player in successive games. While Hoddle can hardly be held entirely responsible for the discipline of his team, it hardly reflects well and even Michael Owen, booked for a wild lunge, appears to be suffering from frustration.

"He's got to learn to count to 10," Hoddle said. "He is still a youngster. I think there is probably too much heaped on his shoulders at this time with the hysteria." Hoddle might argue that he is suffering from similarly hysterical times, but he has only himself to blame for that.



Ince gets his marching orders against Sweden



The absence of Ince and Beckham, through suspension, and Batty and Anderton, through injury, could cost England dear against Bulgaria at Wembley next month

ENGLAND DISMISSALS

Player	Opposition	Year
Alan Mullery	v Yugoslavia, Florence	1968
Alan Gail	v Poland, Chorzow	1973
Trevor Cherry	v Argentina, Buenos Aires	1977
Ray Wilkins	v Morocco, Mombasa	1986
David Beckham	v Argentina, Saint-Etienne	1998
Paul Ince	v Sweden, Stockholm	1998

GROUP 5 TABLE

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	2	1	3
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	1	0	0	1	2	0

GROUP FIVE FIXTURES

Oct 10: Poland v Luxembourg, England v Bulgaria, Oct 14: Bulgaria v Sweden, Luxembourg v England, Mar 27, 1999: Sweden v Luxembourg, England v Poland, Mar 31: Luxembourg v Bulgaria, Poland v Sweden, June 5: Poland v Bulgaria, England v Sweden, June 9: Luxembourg v Poland, Bulgaria v England, Sept 4: Sweden v Bulgaria, England v Luxembourg, Sept 8: Luxembourg v Sweden, Poland v England, Oct 9: Sweden v Poland, Oct 10: Bulgaria v Luxembourg

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CRICKET

Crawley cashes in as Lancashire win the lottery

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S (Lancashire won toss; Lancashire beat Derbyshire by nine wickets)

WHEN the rain relented, this was the fastest and flattest of all September cup finals, reduced by climate and circumstance to a mockery of a proper cricketing contest. It will be remembered by precious few outside the Lancashire dressing-room and should serve as conclusive proof that this showpiece of the season must be moved to a more auspicious time of year.

Next season, when domestic one-day cricket is revolutionised by a two-division league and an expanded NatWest Trophy, the single remaining cup final will be played on the last Saturday of August — a step in the right direction when a couple of strides would have been more appropriate.

Timing cannot guarantee good weather, as the drenching of the last Benson and Hedges Cup final in July testifies, and there is a cosy sense of completion about the end-of-season final. But the game has moved on — it takes longer to play and carries far greater rewards than of old — so it is an increasing anomaly to stage the biggest one-day match of summer when the

days are short, the dews severe and the weather variable.

This game lasted 67 overs and offered little more than four hours of cricket. Many of the capacity crowd on Saturday had gone home before play began at 4.30pm and the game concluded yesterday in a ground three-quarters empty.

The groundsman was blameless. When the teams surveyed Mick Hunt's pitch on Friday it was hard, dry and chalk-white. By the time the covers came off, after 15 hours of rain, it was moist and tinged with green. Yet again, the toss was destined to decide a final that has now been won 12 times in 13 years by the side bowling first.

It would almost certainly have been more competitive had Lancashire, demonstrably the better equipped team, been obliged to bat first. That said, Derbyshire could hardly have had a better start than an opening stand of 70 between Michael Slater and Kim Barnett.

In their forthright and individual styles, they exploited some wayward opening overs from Wasim Akram and Peter Martin. There was movement available but the bowlers could not control it, and when

Slater drove Glen Chappell over extra cover for six, Derbyshire were in improbable command.

It was a deceptively fragile platform. With the same speed that afternoon turned to evening, Derbyshire contrived to lose seven wickets for 11 runs. If it sounds feebly submissive, it should be said that the bowling, from Ian Austin and a refocused Martin, was close to unplayable.

Slater left berating himself for hitting across the line of a full-length ball from Austin, but the majority of those who subsequently came and went with bewildering speed were off the seam, their sins never more than nervy, minimal foot movement.

Martin's second spell brought him four for four in five overs, while Austin was exemplary throughout, but for an unfortunate four overthrows his figures would have been startling. In such quintessentially English conditions there is no more effective seam bowler.

If Austin wins a World Cup place, it may come at the expense of Dominic Cork, though the efforts of the Derbyshire captain here were irreproachable. With the bat, he survived until bad light curtailed play on Saturday and was then the victim of a dubious decision yesterday. With the ball, he tried valiantly to defend the indefensible.

Derbyshire's 108 was the lowest total by a side batting first in 36 finals. They had no logical hope but if Michael Atherton had been caught at slip, as he should have been, in Cork's first over, it might at least have given an edge to proceedings.

Instead, Lancashire's openers reached 28 before Cork moved one up the slope to hit Atherton's off stump and that only ushered in Neil Fairbrother to demonstrate why he, too, may have a World Cup role. With John Crawley striking the ball clearly in the game's only half-century, it ended before lunch in dreadful anticlimax.



Atherton's off stump is removed by Cork at Lord's yesterday. Derbyshire's only success as Lancashire cruised to victory by nine wickets.

Wasim celebrates a valedictory triumph

Michael Henderson sees the Lancashire captain preparing to leave on a high after victory in the NatWest Trophy at Lord's

Wasim Akram accepted the NatWest Trophy yesterday on behalf of Lancashire and then, with hand on heavy heart, confessed how much he would miss them. The Pakistan all-rounder, who first played for the county in 1988, will leave Old Trafford at the end of the season to widespread gratitude for his past deeds, and everybody's best wishes for the future.

At a committee meeting tonight, by which time Lancashire may have added the Axa League to the cup they won yesterday, the club will appoint John Crawley as their new captain. They will also decide to go ahead with the recruitment of Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off spinner, as their overseas

player. They have spoken to him and he has agreed to join them.

Wasim has played fair by the club, informing them earlier this year that their requirement was a spin bowler, preferably an off spinner, and therefore to approach Muralitharan, who bowled out England at the Oval last week.

It will be hard for Wasim to leave. He has a house in Cheshire and is genuinely fond of the club and its players, but he realises that, though he might like to play on next year, after the World Cup, nobody can conquer time. He is coming to the end

of his benefit season, which seems an appropriate time to take his leave.

"I told them I was available next year," he said, "but I will be happy with whatever they decide. I have enjoyed the best part of my career with Lancashire and, whatever happens in the future, I will always want them to do well."

Although Lancashire's intentions may be the best, it will strike outsiders as an odd time for Wasim to be going. He remains a magnificent bowler, is popular in the dressing-room and, in his first year as captain, he has presided over a successful team.

Apart from the Sunday league, they are also third in the county championship with a genuine chance of winning it outright for the first time since 1934.

Yesterday, in a poor final ruined utterly by the foul weather on Saturday, they proved much too strong for Derbyshire, who lost a toss that both captains admitted was crucial. The ball that Dominic Cork found to dismiss Michael Atherton was probably the only happy memory that Derbyshire will take away from Lord's.

It was the sixth cup final at Lord's for Wasim and he has

been a winner four times. Atherton, Warren Hegg and Ian Austin have appeared in eight, because they played on the winning side twice in 1996, when Wasim was leading the Pakistan touring side, but top of the list is Neil Fairbrother, who has seven medals from his ten finals. When you win a World Cup final at Melbourne in 1992, he truly is the master finalist and yesterday it was his honour to hit the winning run. The man-of-the-match award went to Austin, who now holds the individual medals for both Benson and Hedges Cup. Only Clive Radley, the salty old seagull from Middlesex, can match that.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Lancashire won toss	
DERBYSHIRE	
M J Slater b D Austin	34
K J Barnett b Martin	23
A S Pollard c Flintoff b Martin	1
R M B Weston b Austin	0
M E Cassar c Chappell b Austin	8
B J Spence b Hegg b Martin	5
D G Cork c Hegg b Wasim	6
P A J DeFreitas b Martin	0
F A J Flintoff c Hegg b Flintoff	2
M P Catterall b Wasim	13
I D Dean not out	10
Barnes (no 5, 47, no 8)	20
Barnes (28.4 overs, 154 mins)	108
Lancashire	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70 (Barnes 28), 2-70 (Pollard 0), 3-71 (Flintoff 1), 4-71 (Catterall 0), 5-81 (Cassar 8), 6-81 (Weston 0), 7-81 (Cork 0), 8-94 (Pollard 2), 9-102 (Slater 3)	
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8.1-38.2 (no 4, 45.3 overs, 50-25-0, 3.4-1.18-2), Martin	

DAVID LLOYD suffered three days of mental turmoil before pledging, yesterday, to continue as England coach. Distressed by the events of last week, when he received what amounted to a final warning to control his public comments and conduct, Lloyd seriously contemplated resignation before being won over by the entreaties of those closest to him.

"I felt I had to spend some time considering my position," he said yesterday. "It's been a very difficult week for me, but I have received overwhelming support from the public, both through letters and from those I've met. Reactions like that show me that the developments in and around the team are being appreciated."

Lloyd pulled back from the brink

By Alan Lee

"The England players and staff have always been very supportive and I've no wish to let any of them down with a big winter ahead. This is a wonderful job and I remain very positive about it."

Lloyd, close to the edge on Friday and wondering whether his position had been rendered untenable, was bolstered by backing, even from his predecessor, Raymond Illingworth.

The most pertinent calls, though, came from England players, including the captain, Alec Stewart, and from the coaching and technical

team. Several of the staff — colloquially known as Team England — were apparently intent on resigning in sympathy if Lloyd had felt obliged to stand down, a measure of the intense loyalty that he commands.

Lloyd will wisely keep his own counsel over any dismay at the proceedings that followed his remarks about Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off spinner. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), though, may have

handled the issue as badly as Lloyd initially handled himself.

As the ECB's first responsibility is to its own employees, and through them the health of the national team, it might have been assumed that it would instinctively support and protect Lloyd, even amid the public need to reprimand him. Instead, in a sequence of ways, it left him open to feelings of precarious neglect.

First, Richard Peel, the director of corporate affairs, created a

media feeding frenzy by saying that Lloyd "could be sacked" — a contingency that virtually no one had considered. Then, at the inquiry that followed, Lloyd was left to feel that he had to operate in future like a man walking on rare china.

Remarkably, I understand, the comment for which he was reprimanded was not contained in the widely-quoted television interview, which the Board considered acceptable. It was when he said, in response to questioning at a press conference, that he would be "making his views known to the

authorities", that the Board took offence.

Lloyd, in fact, had already made those views known by writing to the match referee before the Oval Test match. Nevertheless, Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, saw the remarks as needlessly endangering good relations with his Sri Lankan counterparts.

There is a theory that Graham Gooch is being lined up to replace Lloyd. There are those observers who feel a change would be a good thing.

The players, however, and all those closest to them do not agree, which is a powerful reason why the Board should now be ensuring that the incumbent coach feels more wanted and comfortable.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles soar as new-look Cup begins

AYR Scottish Eagles started the new season just as they ended the old one: beating Cardiff Devils. Third period goals by Mark Montanari, Sam Groleau and Dennis Purdie helped them to a 5-4 success in their opening match in the Benson and Hedges Cup (Norman de Mesquita writes).

London Knights, the newcomers, went down 6-2 to Nottingham Panthers. Jamie Leach and Steve Roberts each scored twice for the Panthers. Manchester Storm prevailed over Sheffield Steelers by the odd goal in seven, thanks to a late goal from Jeff Tomlinson. Kevin Hoffman gave them the lead after only five minutes and they were never headed.

Bracknell Bees edged Newcastle Riverkings 4-3, with Sal Manganaro scoring twice and Shane McCosh getting the decisive goal.

This season, the Superleague and British National League (BNL) teams are being kept apart until the quarter-final stage to eliminate one-sided games. In the two groups featuring the BNL clubs, Slough Jets were the only winners, 5-4 at home to Guildford Flames, while the other two games — Five Flyers against Paisley Pirates and Kingston Hawks against Peterborough Pirates — were drawn.

CYCLING

Lovatt takes honours in grand prix

MARK LOVATT, normally a worker bee for the Ambrosia team, had the best win of his ten-year career yesterday when he went clear with five miles remaining in the 103-mile Brian Rourke grand prix near Stone, Staffordshire (Peter Bryan writes).

Ten miles earlier, the result had looked signed and sealed for Jon Clay. Team Brit's captain won four Premier Calendar event victories to his credit this season, who led a successful escape from the leading bunch of ten accompanied by Lovatt and Rob Lyne.

Clay's bid proved short-lived, however: he suffered hunger "knock" and could not hold the pace, leaving his two companions the stronger. Lovatt put in his decisive solo attack on a slight rise and shed Lyne, who finished 45sec behind. Clay found something of a sprint to take third place, 1min 15sec after Lovatt crossed the line.

There is only one event remaining in the 19-race Premier Calendar competition which Chris Newton (Britie) has already won.

□ Jeroen Blijlevens, the Dutch TVM rider, won the second stage of the Tour of Spain after a sprint finish in Cadiz yesterday. Marcus Zberg, of Switzerland, kept the overall lead.

GOLF: GERMAN GAINS THIRD TOUR VICTORY AFTER WINNING PLAY-OFF

Struver reveals nerves of steel

FROM MEL WEBB IN CRANS-SUR-SIERRE

IT WAS tense: it was enough to make the blood run cold in this mountain eyrie perched 5,000 feet up the Swiss Alps. The Canon European Masters went into only its second play-off in the past ten years yesterday, and the man who summoned up the nerves of steel was Sven Struver, who overcame Patrik Sjolund, the long-time leader, at the first extra hole.

The personable German thus gained the third European Tour victory of his career after he had tied with Sjolund, who is fast becoming one of the standard-bearers of Swedish golf, on 263, 21 under par. Darren Clarke made some progress in his season-long joust with Lee Westwood for top place in the Order of Merit, the Ulsterman closing to within £5,500 of the Englishman.

Sjolund's failure to win cost him the chance to replace Colin Montgomerie in third place in the money-list. Montgomerie, meanwhile, was in full red-faced paddy mode after spilling an excellent inward half by double-bogeying the last. Understandable, really: the poor chap has only won £455,000 this season.

Such matters of high finance did not really concern Struver. Miracles excepted, he is not remotely likely to intrude in such stellar affairs, although victory did promote

him from 39th in the Order of Merit to twelfth. For him, the glory in this victory, quite aside from the warm feeling that winning conveys, was the £133,330 that he took home to Hamburg.

Struver's previous two wins — the 1996 South African PGA and the 1997 Dutch Open — were both worthy ones but, in terms of kudos, this was by a margin the most prestigious. He has not been in serious trouble of losing his player's card since he qualified for Tour membership for the second time in as many years in 1991; this victory, with its five-year exemption, guarantees him his place well into the millennium.

He did it the hard way, too. He started the day four strokes adrift of Sjolund who, it appeared, needed only to keep control of the form that



Struver: upset the odds

he had produced over the first three days to claim his second victory of the season.

If that was his aim, he failed. When set alongside the confident 66 of Struver, his closing 70 was an untidy, uncoordinated performance. "I did not play well enough on

Gustafson blows in

SOPHIE GUSTAFSON, of Sweden, claimed the £15,000 winner's cheque after 60mph winds wiped out the final round of the Donegal Irish Open at Ballyliffin yesterday. Organisers were left with little choice but to abandon the competition, but Gustafson and the joint third-round leader, then Tinning, of Denmark, fought out the title in a sudden-death play-off.

Gustafson, who will make

her Solheim Cup debut later this month, almost drove the green at the 367-yard 18th, and a par four was good enough for the 24-year-old to add the title to her only previous tour win in the 1996 Swiss Open.

Tinning, who has never finished higher than fourth in two years on tour, drove into the rough and took a disappointing three more to reach the green for a double-bogey six.

the day," he said ruefully, and he was right.

The way he played the 18th hole, both in regulation play and play-off, encapsulated the difference between his golf and that of his conqueror. On the 72nd hole of the tournament, Sjolund put his second shot to 15 feet and sent his birdie putt charging 4½ feet past. Struver, meanwhile, rolled in his putt from five feet for a birdie to put the piece into extra time.

There was nothing to choose between the two protagonists as they loosed their drives off the 18th tee for the second time in the day: both in the middle of the fairway, both set fair. There was not a great deal to choose between them, either, on the second shot: Sjolund 12 feet away, Struver a couple of feet inside him.

So, now, the marathon of the previous four days, traipsing for miles at altitude, had come down to a simple putting contest. Now he whose nerves afflicted him less would prevail, and that man was Struver.

Sjolund missed his birdie putt from 12 feet by inches. This was Struver's chance, and he took it quite beautifully, rolling the ball in smoothly from ten feet. He had stuck to his task and upset the odds as they were laid at the start of the day. Victory, especially such a hard-earned one as this, was sweet.

Scores, page 40

SPORT IN BRIEF

Doochan closes gap after Imola victory

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doochan, of Australia, won his fifth 500cc grand prix of the season at Imola yesterday. The world champion finished ahead of Alex Criville, of Spain. Doochan is now only four points behind Max Biaggi, of Italy, in the world championship.

The World Superbike championship is also heading for a close finish after wins for Carl Fogarty and Pier-Francesco Chili in round 11 at Assen, Holland. Six points separate the leader, Troy Corser, from Aaron Slight and Fogarty with one round to go.

Patriots are back on top

BASISBALL: Menwith Hill Patriots re-established themselves as Britain's top team yesterday, winning the Coors League series by taking the second game of the best-of-three final against London Warriors, the 1997 champions, 17-15 at Pavilion Field, Brighton. The Patriots, an all-American team from a US military base in Yorkshire, had to fend off a London recovery as the Warriors came back from 17-9 in the eighth inning.

Senden holds his nerve

GOLF: A par at the first hole of a sudden-death play-off was enough to give John Senden, of Australia, the Open de Strasbourg title over Darren Lee, of Essex, yesterday. The two had tied on 276, 12 under par, at La Wantzenau. Senden after a closing 68 to Lee's 70. At the first play-off hole, Lee found the bunker and the water for a bogey five, while Senden found two putts to take the £7,309 first prize.

McGwire homing in

BASISBALL: Mark McGwire, of the St Louis Cardinals, became only the third player in Major League history to score 60 home runs in a season with a 381-foot hit against the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday. He is now tied with Babe Ruth for the second highest number of home runs in a season and needs one to tie Roger Maris's record, set in 1961.

THE TIMES MONDAY
Henma

Beaten R
Victory

From
MAY 1998

ROWING: FIVE
Coxless fo

Henman still searching for authority to fulfil potential

The Tim-watching season has an extension, for those who truly care. No longer is tennis restricted to an annual fortnight of orgiastic television. For tennis fans — a quite different genus from Wimbledon fans — today's endless and seamless output of television sports now brings an additional treat with live coverage of the US Open.

It has always been my favourite grand-slam event to visit, because of its excellent tennis and my own impossibly romantic feelings about New York. It vexes me, the way people complain about its various glacialities: noise, New Yorkers, concrete, food. I always travelled to Flushing Meadows by subway.

reading my latest plunder from Strand bookstore, and nightly dined on a "mozzarella, tomato and baysil" butty. And revelled in the tennis which, being on splendidly appropriate concrete, lacks both the dainty brutalities of Wimbledon and the eternal chicaneries of Parisian clay.

On Sunday morning, Greg Rusedski made his third-round exit around about the hour the Gestapo came to call. Poor old Greg looked rather a mess, since the ankle injury that caused him to abandon Wimbledon in the year that he really believed he might win it, he has been walking around the world like Charlie Brown, beneath his personal black cloud.

In New York this weekend, he looked rather more like Basil Fawlty as painted by Edward Munch: perhaps the thing that most upset him, as he went down to Jan Siemerink, was the thought that Henman was still alive and kicking in this tournament. And, by the same token, perhaps the most dispiriting thing for Henman as he set about his match with the German, Michael Kohlmann, was the thought that Rusedski had already gone.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about Henman is Rusedski; perhaps the most interesting thing about Rusedski is Henman. The success and failure of each is connected in the most extraordinary and intimate fashion.



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

Success for the one is almost invariably followed by greater success for the other. Then comes a period in which they seem to take turns waxing and waning at the other's expense.

The performance of the one invariably affects the performance of the other, sometimes as inspiration, sometimes as the most terrible depressant. Each is unable to do anything in isolation: they know every-

body will compare the latest ranking, the latest tournament, with the achievement or the failing of the other. Everybody will do it, but they will do it first. Important point: both will deny this, and do so with their dying breaths.

Some people have liked to talk about the relationship in terms of hate, but it goes much deeper than that. It is not so much a matter of personal emotions as of ineluctable

personal involvement. There is simply no escape from each other.

They are doomed, it seemed, to spend their tennis lives as one half of this rivalry/pact/dumvirate. Their fates are caught up together, and they are doomed to spend their lives trapped in the other's gravitational system, like twin suns.

And I have an odd feeling that it was Rusedski's third-round, Fawley-esque collapse — thank you, God! Thank you so bloody much! — that somehow dispirited Henman when British tennis came back to British screens on Sunday tea-time, which is also time for morning coffee and donuts in NYC.

Greg had already gone, that

tournament within a tournament — for each, perhaps, the crucial tournament in every Grand Slam — had already been won. Henman found it hard to play serious tennis. The spirit was willing, but the backhand was weak. So was the service: at one point in the second set he had a first service success percentage of less than 40 per cent. Not good enough.

Dropping his service, trailing 3-5, he then managed to get himself going, took the second set 7-5. And then did that little slip of self-approval that you sometimes see from him at moments of heightened emotion. Then came disaster in the third set, serious embarrassment, after which he showed his basic

toughness to take the fourth set and the match.

Gerry Williams, commenting on Sky, said at the start that he believed Henman was ready to take his place among the game's elite. "His potential," Williams said, "is limitless." But there comes a time in the life of every promising young man when he just has to stop being one.

And start delivering. Henman has done amazingly well, no question about that. But, if he is to do better — if he is to fulfil the things on the far edge of potential — then there is one single thing that he needs to add to his game. Sampras has it. Henman does not — as we saw in their titanic match at Wimbledon this year. And it is authority.

Beaten Rusedski overtaken as British No 1 by rival's advance to fourth round of US Open

Victory ranks with Henman's sweetest

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW YORK

IT WAS a big day for Tim Henman and he promptly celebrated by dismissing Michael Kohlmann in four sets to reach the fourth round of the US Open here yesterday. The occasion of his 24th birthday was further embellished by the fact that he had just replaced Greg Rusedski as the best of British.

Rusedski's five-set defeat by Jan Siemerink, of Holland, will see his world ranking drop to the low teens when the ladder is updated next week. Whatever Henman's ultimate fate at Flushing Meadows, he is bound to be ranked higher, thus leapfrogging Rusedski 12 months to the day that he was himself supplanted in the national pecking order.

The portents were in place for a champagne performance and Henman opened his match with rare effervescence. He set about Kohlmann as though bent on an early lunch. The No 2 Stadium Court marked the scene of his last two exits from the US Open, and Henman seemed determined to expunge the memory. As if to underline the point, he opened and closed the first set with aces to exorcise the German's discomfort with his first glimpse of a big stage.

World ranked No 149, Kohlmann had played but a solitary match on the main tour before qualifying for this event. A succession of injuries have plagued him since he was the leading German 16-and-under player eight years ago. That prowess became evident in the second set, when Kohlmann led 4-1 and then served to level matters at 5-3, but when Henman responded to win the next four games, he appeared set for a routine afternoon.

What happened next should serve as a salutary reminder. Henman promptly lost concentration, his floundering ground strokes reviving Kohlmann's spirits to the extent that he ran away with the third set. Henman's self-admonishment was both pertinent and clearly audible around the stadium: "Concentrate, for Christ's sake, focus." Henman arrested his lapse at the start of the fourth set.



Henman delivers another winning forehand against Kohlmann at Flushing Meadows yesterday. Photograph: Don Emmert

Previously hesitant and exposed on the baseline, he returned to his aggressive instincts to triumph 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4. In two hours 31 minutes, "He was moving unbelievably at the net," Kohlmann said. "I knew that if I didn't hit the line on my passing shots, I would have little chance."

Unlike his rivals Pete Sampras, Pat Rafter, Andre Agassi and Jonas Bjorkman, Henman expended too much energy against his journeyman opponent for comfort. Still, he remains relatively fresh for his match tomorrow with the winner

Mark Philippoussis and Lucas Arnold. A quarter-final place is at stake.

The bottom collapsed on Rusedski's barrel late on Saturday night when the No 6 seed, his resources stretched by successive five-set matches, finally gave out in another marathon against Siemerink. Surviving three match points in his first two matches only earned Rusedski a stay of execution. The guillotine thus fell on a player whose preparation for this tournament was far from ideal.

Rusedski's disappointment was heightened by the fact that this was a match he could

and should have won. The fates that favoured him throughout last week suddenly reclaimed their debt as Rusedski served poorly and volleyed erratically. Furthermore, a series of foot faults triggered a running diatribe with the umpire, which served to fracture his concentration.

Even when Siemerink, world ranked No 21, regularly double-faulted at pivotal moments, Rusedski was unable to capitalise. "I put myself in a lot of difficulty by not serving well," Rusedski said. "I have had a very disappointing grand-slam season (two first-round and two third-round

exits). I just don't like to be mediocre."

Although he saved three further match points, the Briton started with an appearance for Britain against India later this month. After that, he has important rankings points to defend early in the European indoor season.

"It will be a fight to the end of the year to finish in the top ten," Rusedski said before acknowledging Henman's effort in supplanting him. "Tim deserves it. He had a great run at Wimbledon and has played well through the summer, but I will be back." The resilience he showed in reaching the third round is evidence of that.

on one leg at Wimbledon cannot have helped.

Rusedski's efforts to regroup start with an appearance for Britain against India later this month. After that, he has important rankings points to defend early in the European indoor season.

"It will be a fight to the end of the year to finish in the top ten," Rusedski said before acknowledging Henman's effort in supplanting him. "Tim deserves it. He had a great run at Wimbledon and has played well through the summer, but I will be back." The resilience he showed in reaching the third round is evidence of that.

Seles taken the distance as Po sees the light

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

IT IS all too quiet out there. As the middle Sunday of the US Open dawned, all but six of the 32 seeds, men and women, were still in business, leading to a nagging feeling that it is all about to go horribly wrong. Sure enough there have been a few scares along the way, but those who should have won have come up trumps while the rest have known their place and lost accordingly.

The nearest thing to a granddaddy in the women's draw comes in the 58 4in form of Kimberly Po. Reaching the fourth round for the first time in her career, she defeated the No 14 seed, Dominique van Roost, in her previous match, not that anyone noticed, and was setting her sights on Monica Seles for a shot at the quarter-finals.

Wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap, Po was travelling incognito to the Arthur Ashe Stadium. She looked like a club player, neat, tidy and anonymous, and altogether out of place on such a show court.

But that is how she feels about tennis in general. One of the brighter lights on the women's tour and a former UCLA student, she spent six months away from the game earlier this year recovering from surgery on her shoulder and came to the conclusion that tennis is not a real job for a grown-up with a brain.

Able to talk about things other than forehands and backhands, and it is alarming how rare that is among the players, Po is thinking seriously of retiring at the end of this year. Not that that stopped her from putting body and soul into her Open run.

She took her time to settle down. "I was thinking too much about who I was playing and where," she said. "You have to fight against the feeling that, because you're playing Monica Seles, you have to do more, hit better, hit lines, hit perfect shots. But you don't."

"I just tried to play within

myself and not worry so much about who I'm playing." Once her nerves were under control, Po started to give Seles a rough ride. Although she is hitting the ball as hard as ever, Seles is not looking particularly sharp at the moment.

Overweight and not as fit as she was earlier this summer, she is not controlling the points and the rallies as in days of old and, once Po got her eye in, she had to work very hard to pull out the victory.

All looked to be well as Seles sat at a set and 4-1 up but proceeded to lose the next five games. Forced into a third set, she did not look happy.

Grunting louder and louder, always a sign that Seles is opening up the throttle and



Seles: made to struggle

going for broke, she finally made the breakthrough in the fifth game, absolutely leaping a backhand return. Finally ahead, she was not going to give away such a precious lead again.

Next on the agenda is likely to be Martina Hingis, and Seles knows that she is going to have to be a lot more consistent and a lot more aggressive if she is to progress any further at Flushing Meadows. The two last met in August in Canada with Seles winning in three sets, but that was three weeks and several excess pounds ago. It will be a lot tougher this time.

ROWING: PINSENT ENSURES EASY PASSAGE TO SEMI-FINAL FOR BRITAIN'S FLAGSHIP CREW

Coxless four fight off late challenge

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN COLOGNE

BRITAIN'S flagship coxless four cruised to a comfortable win in the first day of the world championships here yesterday. Norway and Egypt threw everything at the British in the first half — to no avail — before suffering the consequences.

The Americans mounted a second half challenge, but stroke man Matthew Pinsent, kept his men at a leisurely rate to cruise home in front and qualify for Thursday's semi-final. "We are a lot better than last year. We are more smoothness, we are longer, and more under control," Jürgen Grobler, the head coach, said.

Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay also progressed to Thursday's women's double sculls semi-final with a smooth and controlled race. Their win was the fastest of the three heats, faster not only at the finish but at every signal up the course. As a pointer, the Dutch 1998 World Cup champions Van Dishoeck and Van Nes, winners of the second fastest heat, were a full three seconds slower to halfway. It was a relief that the British doubles lack of racing practice this summer had not produced rustiness.

Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, World Cup champions but disappointing at Lucerne, produced a race of two halves. At 1,000 metres they were fourth and looking heavy. The pair then seemed to wake up, passing Russia and Romania and submitting Emma Robinson and Alison Corn, the Canadian world champions, to real pressure at the line. The British

face a repechage tomorrow, but their confidence should be high. It was a morale-boosting day for Britain's three scullers who all showed that they had moved up a notch since Lucerne. All finished second, although only first would have avoided tomorrow's repechages. Greg Searle, easing up before the line, followed home Rob Waddell, of New Zealand, in a time faster than the winners of the other three heats. No mean feat seeing the other winners were the Swiss Olympic champion, Xeno Muller, and the former world champions,

Izok Cop, of Slovenia, and Vaclav Chalupa, of the Czech Republic. Times can be deceptive but Searle's style and motivation seem to have returned.

Peter Haining, Britain's unbeatable lightweight from 1993 to 1995, was battered by his old American rival, James Martinez, by a length, again in a very fast heat. Haining was taken by surprise by the American's spurt at 750 metres and never got back, stating wryly: "There are seven people for six places in the final. I'll make sure I am not the seventh." The same

scenario applies to Guin Batten in the women's sculls who finished in second place behind Germany's multi-gold medal-winner, Katrin Rutschow. Batten has a good repechage draw for tomorrow.

The main disappointment of the day was a lacklustre performance by the men's lightweight eight. They were well beaten into second place by the United States, the only major crew in the event not bettered by the British this year, although Germany and Italy, both beaten by Britain at Lucerne, led home the other heat in a faster time, perhaps giving hope to Britain for their previous form.

ROLAND WISCHAU



Concerted effort: Drew Ginn and Michael McKay, of Australia, take the strain in the coxless pairs

EQUESTRIANISM: NEW ZEALANDERS DOMINATE HORSE TRIALS

Tait adds Burghley success to impressive list of honours

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, who had been on the verge of withdrawing Chesterfield from the Burghley Pedigree Chum Horse Trials after finishing a disappointing twelfth in the dressage, not only won the event with the Haglund Partnership's 12-year-old gelding but was also runner-up on his second horse, Aspyring, owned by the Kiwi Belles Syndicate.

"I'm chuffed to bits," Tait, 37, said after completing one of only four clear rounds in the showjumping phase yesterday. Only his compatriot, Mark Todd, who was first and second at Burghley in 1987, has performed a similar feat.

In a formidable line-up of New Zealanders, Andrew Nicholson finished third after a faultless round on David and Jane Tulley's Hinnegar. Britain's best performance came from Jancis Tulloch, who was fourth on Bally Free. Tulloch, 36, who had the fastest time across country, was lying third but dropped a place yesterday after incurring 15 faults.

Although Tait, who picked up £26,000 in prize-money, has won most of the sport's top honours — he is a former world champion and the Olympic, British Open and Scottish Open champion — this is his first win at Burghley.

Had it not been for the mayhem on Saturday's cross-country he might well have remained down

the line. But the rain turned the speed and endurance phase into a survival course. Of the 56 who set out on the cross-country, 32 were eliminated or retired, including Mark Todd, with Stunring, and such seasoned partnerships as Victoria Sinnan's Stalks and Carolyne Ryan-Bell's Hooray Henry II.

Tait, drawn first, had the advantage of better going and, despite a near fall at Mark Phillips' influential new fence, the Podium Bounces, went into the lead and retained it throughout the long day. But the course had left its mark. "It was a funny feeling on Saturday

night," Tait said. "It didn't feel at all uplifting because it had been such a miserable day."

Phillips, the course designer, who had been determined to maintain a true four-star track despite the week's field, was in contemplative mood afterwards. "The weather altered everything. I had not expected the steeplechase phase to take such a heavy toll on the horses," he said.

Twenty-three of the original 65 starters were left to contest the showjumping yesterday — in which the effect of the cross-country was quickly apparent. Six riders had 20 or more faults — including the British riders Ruth Friend on Ice Dancer II and Andrew Bennie on Wontabert. Poles tumbled in all directions to the monotonous accompaniment of a toddler in the front row of the stands who sang out "oh dear" as each fell.

Tait dropped to fourth place after hitting fence No 3 but he moved into the lead after Tulloch collected her 15 faults and Daniel Jocelyn, of New Zealand, incurred 20 faults on the eight-year-old Silence, dropping from third to fifth place.

Knowing he would still win on Aspyring if he had a calamity on Chesterfield, there was little pressure on Tait for his final round. But Chesterfield completed a faultless round and was greeted with tumultuous applause as he crossed the finish line.



Tait: double delight

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING MATCHES

GROUP ONE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Georgia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Albania	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Latvia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP THREE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

TURKEY

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FOUR

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Armenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
France	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FIVE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SIX

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SEVEN

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP EIGHT

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP NINE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

FINAL COUNTDOWN

Sixteen nations will qualify to take part in the European Championship finals in 2000. The joint-hosts, Holland and Belgium, are guaranteed places but the holders, Germany, are not. Forty-nine teams are involved in the qualifying competition, from which the nine group winners will qualify automatically as will the second-placed team with the best group record. The last places go to the winners of four two-legged play-off matches which will be held between the eight other countries that finish as group runners-up. The finals will take place between June 16 to July 2, 2000.

GROUP ONE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Georgia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Albania	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Latvia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP THREE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FOUR

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Armenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
France	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FIVE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SIX

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SEVEN

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP EIGHT

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP NINE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING MATCHES

Sixteen nations will qualify to take part in the European Championship finals in 2000. The joint-hosts, Holland and Belgium, are guaranteed places but the holders, Germany, are not. Forty-nine teams are involved in the qualifying competition, from which the nine group winners will qualify automatically as will the second-placed team with the best group record. The last places go to the winners of four two-legged play-off matches which will be held between the eight other countries that finish as group runners-up. The finals will take place between June 16 to July 2, 2000.

GROUP ONE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Georgia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Albania	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Latvia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP THREE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FOUR

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Armenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
France	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FIVE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SIX

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SEVEN

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP EIGHT

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP NINE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING MATCHES

Sixteen nations will qualify to take part in the European Championship finals in 2000. The joint-hosts, Holland and Belgium, are guaranteed places but the holders, Germany, are not. Forty-nine teams are involved in the qualifying competition, from which the nine group winners will qualify automatically as will the second-placed team with the best group record. The last places go to the winners of four two-legged play-off matches which will be held between the eight other countries that finish as group runners-up. The finals will take place between June 16 to July 2, 2000.

GROUP ONE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Georgia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Albania	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Latvia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP THREE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FOUR

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Armenia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
France	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP FIVE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

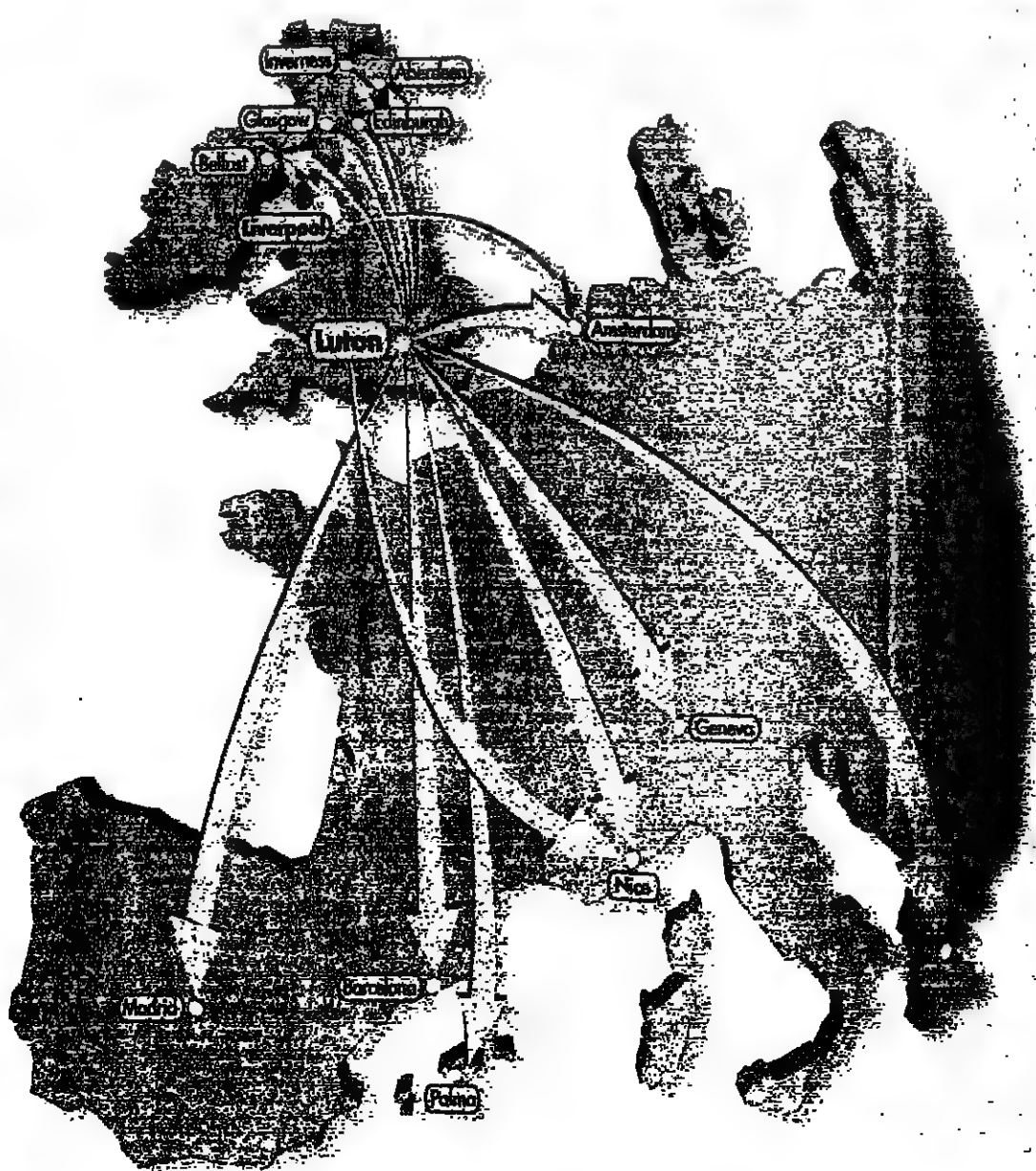
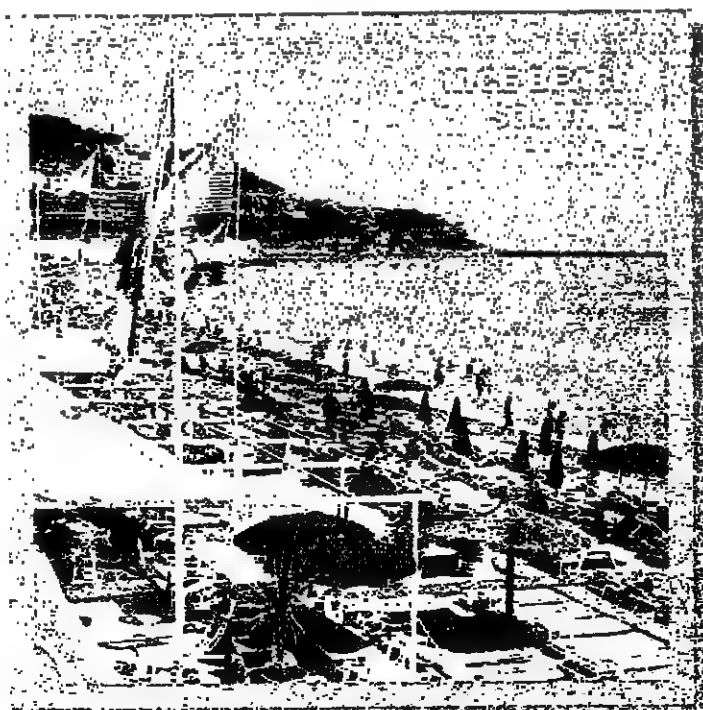
GROUP SIX

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Slovakia	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

GROUP SEVEN

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SIGHT

WEDNESDAY 1955-1956

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12/22	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
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12/24	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/25	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
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12/29	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/30	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000

THURSDAY 1955-1956

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
12/21	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/22	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/23	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/24	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
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12/27	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/28	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/29	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
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FRIDAY 1955-1956

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
12/22	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
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12/24	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/25	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
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12/27	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/28	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/29	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/30	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000

SATURDAY 1955-1956

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
12/23	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/24	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/25	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/26	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/27	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/28	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/29	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/30	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000

SUNDAY 1955-1956

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
12/24	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/25	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/26	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/27	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/28	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/29	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000
12/30	8:00 PM	1000-1000	1000

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London Luto	Barcelona	£24.50	£39	£88
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CHANGING TIMES

Hidden catches mar return to Ireland

I owe Ireland a lot. Thirty-odd years ago it gave me my first trout to a fly. Twenty-odd years ago it gave me my first salmon and first sea trout. It has surrendered the biggest bags of perch, tench and bream that I have taken anywhere. For as long as I can remember, Ireland — and especially the west of Ireland — has flattered me.

Until, that is, last month. A fortnight in Connemara, half of it spent fishing the cream of that region's wonderful waters with some of its finest anglers, gave me a single fish. It was not just that I consistently failed: all of my companions failed as well.

So, an apocalypse in the making? Stocks collapsing and pollution rampant? No — or, at least, a qualified no. What happened was all in the game, simply the pendulum of chance and reward making one of its periodic adjustments. Swings and roundabouts, bags and blanks, are the stuff of angling.

That said, Ireland, like most places, does have its problems. The continuing, incomprehensible example is the ruinous of so many great sea trout fisheries by salmon farming. For all the scientific studies demonstrating what happens, Ireland's Ministry of the Marine

Brian Clarke has his patience tested as he revisits a favourite haunt

continues to allow salmon farms to be sited in prime sea trout estuaries through which the migrating fish must run. Sea life, attracted by the salmon but driven away from the cages by chemicals, latch on to the passing trout and eat them alive. Many famous fisheries have been wiped out.

Ireland also has problems inland, many of them similar to our own. Rivers and lakes are being polluted by the over-use of fertilisers on the land and the inevitable leaching into the water that results. Some prime spawning streams are choked with algae. Spawning beds are being made unusable by the silt that farm animals stir up. And so on.

None of these problems, though, can be raised in defence of my performance. In spite of a wish to stick to traditional techniques, often adverse weather and the pendu-

lum of fate, were what took the toll.

I had driven to Lough Furnace with high hopes. The day before I arrived, Furnace had produced the 599th salmon of its season — a record. Under a blazing sun and on a near flat calm, not a fish was boated to round up the number.

I spent day two on Lough Corrib with the redoubtable Margaret Broadley. An old friend, she is a determined and wily game-fisher, as the 8lb 6oz brown trout above her mantelpiece will attest. She is also a courageous but not reckless boat-handler. At 72, she is still out on the vastness of Corrib three times a week on average, mostly alone in her own small boat. She knows the north shore like the back of her hand and tried every likely inch of reachable water. Blank two.

The evening of day three saw me on the River Clare with father-and-son Ireland international flyfishers, Sonny and Declan Maryn. The Clare is a limestone river with a stock of big, resident trout. The men this season have taken fish to an incredible 6lb. Almost all of them came on warm, still evenings. Our evening was cold and blustery. Blank three.

Day four was on Lough



Broadley is a redoubtable character but her best efforts in Ireland came to nothing

Maske with Danny Goldrich. He works for the Western Regional Fisheries Board and has spent much of his life on water. He is a famed lough fisher and a master of the still-water dry fly. No sooner were we in the boat than the wind strengthened. We spent the day beneath scudding clouds,

lifting and sliding between white-topped rollers. It was a wild day, the kind of day, Goldrich said, on which "anything could happen". But it didn't. Blank four.

Day five saw me on the beautiful, pooten-clear Lough Carra, this time with Tom Byrne. He is one of Ireland's

new generation of competition anglers — young, keen-edged, open-minded and skilled. He lives in a house that backs onto the lake and his job as a schoolteacher gives him plenty of time to explore it. The weather seemed perfect — good cloud cover, a steady wind. And every minute was fished

intently, by both of us. Nothing.

A couple of days later, Byrne and I fished Maske. This time we had a searing sun and no wind. The water slumped like mercury in its bowl. Dragonflies clattered and hawked the margins. Bees drowsed. The fish slumbered deep down — and stayed there.

By the evening of day seven, the last day I had allocated to fishing, a quiet desperation had set in. Sonny Maryn invited me back to the Clare and insisted on ghillying. The evening was not ideal but, with the last light almost gone, he eventually found me a fish. It was far upstream. Only the occasional sip it made at the surface and the faint ebbing rings winking light in the darkness revealed where. The trout took my small sedge first cast.

When it was landed, Sonny cheered and gave me a slap on the back that shook every bone I possessed. I whooped and danced a brief jig. The day — the holiday — had been saved, and saved spectacularly. The trout weighed 3lb 5oz. It was the second biggest wild brown I had taken on a dry fly from a river.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

BOXING

Woodhall fails to convince

IF Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council super middleweight champion, wants a big money showdown with Joe Calzaghe, of Wales, the World Boxing Organisation champion, he will have a long battle in his next contest than he did against Glenn Oxley in Belfast (Srikumar Sen writes).

Although Woodhall retained his title by margins of two and three rounds, Calzaghe should have been given the verdict. Indeed, with the final bell went, Woodhall put his arm round the trisul boxer and told him: "It's your fight". Woodhall blazed his performance on Saturday on the change of opponent. He had trained for a slippery opponent in Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, and found himself facing a short, incoming fighter on whom he was unable to land a solid punch. "A world champion should be able to adapt to any style," he said.

Woodhall must now meet Nardiello and needs to produce an explosive performance to set up the confrontation with Calzaghe next year.

Street children find escape in cricket enclave

By STEPHEN WOOD

THEY are like aliens who have invaded a strange world but, just this once, they are welcomed and encouraged to stay. The sun is shining, the grass is green and lush and teenagers from the City of Salford are playing cricket.

The game is still new to some of the children, but they have left the streets behind for a few hours and become hooked on a pastime hardly renowned for its cross-class appeal. It is, perhaps, the single most noteworthy triumph of Youth Charter for Sport (YCS), the initiative designed to help antisocial children develop through sport.

Under the YCS umbrella, children from a selection of schools in Salford have been brought together at Winton Cricket Club to give cricket a try, or to advance their interest in the game. It has proved a big success for, on certain days, more children have turned up unannounced than can be catered for in one match.

Most have obtained the traditional cricket whites to give their involvement an authenticity, but two boys who might not look the part certainly encapsulate the general feeling. Graeme Watkins and Gareth Guinnane, both 9 years-old, are in the middle of their summer holidays and Graeme, who attends Alder Park Primary School in Salford, said: "We love cricket and just wanted to play, so we came to have a look."

"We'd be bored if we couldn't come down here. I've only been into cricket for a couple of months but I want to play for Lancashire when I'm older. I prefer batting and I'm a good fielder as well."

Graeme and Gareth didn't realise it at the time, but they were doing the YCS proud. The group places great emphasis on development of children through education — and both lads were improving their numeracy while they were there.

"We couldn't play because there were too many children already here," said Gareth, a

former Alder Park pupil back in town to visit his cousin, Graeme. "So we looked after the scoring and worked on the scoreboard instead, but it's not as good as playing."

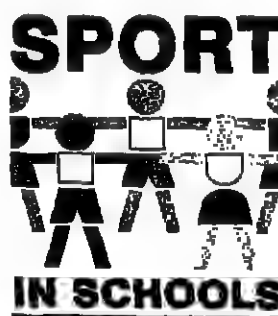
Graeme added: "My family thinks we're so boring because we like cricket and my mates don't want to come. They want to hang around the streets and like beating people up. I don't want to do that, although if I couldn't come here to play cricket, I don't know what I'd be doing."

YCS was the brainchild of Geoff Thompson, the former world karate champion, and he first targeted the children of Moss Side, Manchester. In 1993, YCS listed five "focus" sports it would concentrate on and in four of them — football, rugby, combat sports and tennis — it has given antisocial children opportunities they would not have had. It is fitting that, as it celebrates its fifth anniversary, YCS believes it has also cracked the elitist domain of cricket.

Annesley de Silva, the former Sri Lanka slow left-arm bowler, is now head coach of cricket for the City of Salford. He said: "We are achieving success in taking cricket to children who never thought it would be for them."

"Admittedly, it is a slow process. For all the children who have come to our coaching courses, there are as many still hanging around the streets. There are ways of attracting them, but we need more help from the schools."

Thompson, who echoes that sentiment, believes that Lancashire is waking up to the talent on its doorstep. Thompson said: "Lancashire have a responsibility to give these children the best chance at cricket they can. It doesn't matter if none of them don't play for Lancashire in the future. The most important thing is that, together, we can educate them, help advance their social awareness and give them self-esteem through cricket."



SPEEDWAY

Panthers on brink

PETERBOROUGH have the chance to shake off Reading to-night when they travel to Berkshire to take on their nearest challengers in the Premier League championship race (Tony Hoare writes).

The Panthers have led the league since the start of the season and victory at Smallmead Stadium will make sure Reading cannot catch them in the end-of-season run-in.

A victory for Peterborough would mean that only a late charge from either Sheffield or Hull could overhaul them as they seek the second championship in their 28-year history. Either of the Yorkshire clubs would need to win all of their

remaining matches to have a chance of winning the title.

Peterborough, who last won the title in 1992, have based their success on a youth policy that has given them three of Britain's most talented prospects in the same season.

David Howe, the British under-16 champion, has risen from reserve to one of the best second strings in the country and Simon Stead and Oliver Allen have performed capably from the reserve berths. All are just 16 years old.

"It's all down to them," Peter Oakes, the Panthers promoter, said. "They are proving what we thought, that they can all make it in speedway."

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ATHLETICS: GEBRSELASSIE, JONES AND EL GUERROUJ IN THREE-WAY TIE FOR JACKPOT IN MOSCOW

Bronson's wish goes unfulfilled

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN BRONSON says that his surname is so rare that, outside his family, he knows of only one other Bronson — the actor, Charles. In the Moscow Olympic Stadium at the weekend, the Death Wish urge passed from one Bronson to another.

The Bronson of the moment, with little apparent regard for self-preservation, ran straight into the trap laid by Mammon. There was a cool quarter-share in \$1 million to be made, but Bronson was too eager.

After six victories out of six in the Golden League, the Texan 400 metres hurdler needed only one more win to put his days as an impoverished athlete far behind him. The occasion was the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) grand-prix final in Moscow, and Bronson, though racing in sunglasses, was blinded by the gold.

Out of his blocks, as if panicked by the sound of the

gun, Bronson put too much into the first 300 metres. He built a two-metre lead before appearing, in the home straight, as the personification of the Russian commercial banks, sliding into economic crisis.

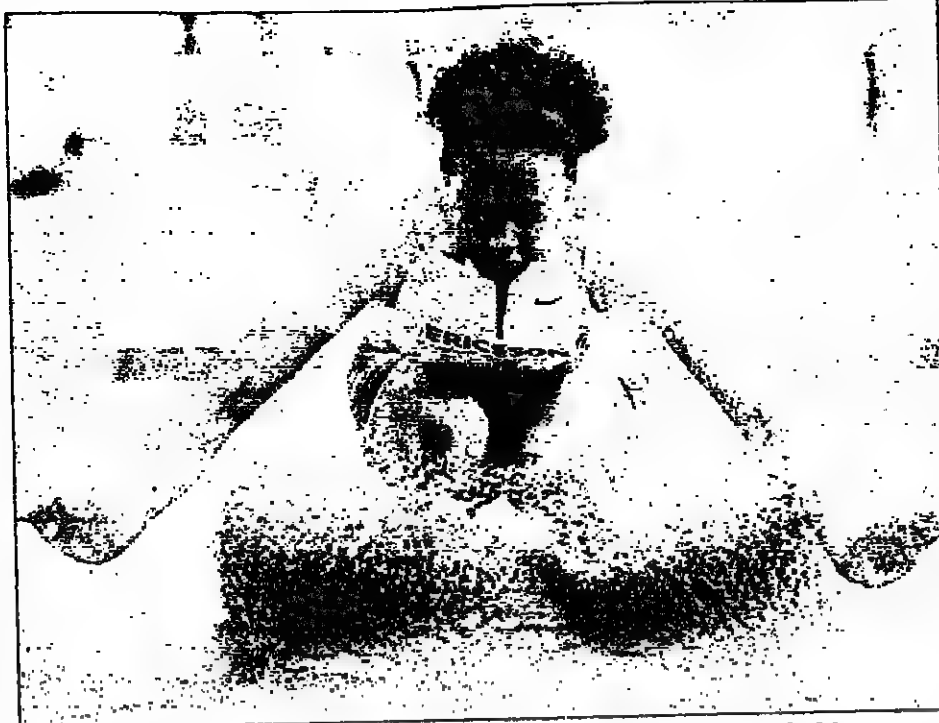
First, he lost \$250,000 when Stephane Diagana, the world champion from France, went past him after Bronson's stride had shortened coming off the tenth and last hurdle. Then, the big money lost, he gave away the loose change. Slowing to a jog after Diagana had overtaken him, Bronson faded from second to sixth, costing him a further \$23,000 in place money.

The jackpot for athletes with seven wins from the Golden League and grand-prix final was thus shared between three: Marion Jones, Hicham El Guerrouj and Haile Gebrselassie. The drama of the decline of Bronson does not disguise the fact that the impact of the jackpot gim-

rick, introduced this year, is lessened by there being more than one winner. If it is to remain a powerful promotional tool for the sport, the IAAF must introduce a system that guarantees a million-dollar champion. How much more exciting the final would have been if a tie-break had been in operation to split Jones, El Guerrouj and Gebrselassie.

Alternatives might include: winning margin measured as a fraction of the distance run; performance judged against the Hungarian scoring tables; a sack race (unfair on the athletes, but what fun for the spectators). Seriously, the IAAF needs a solution: one prize, one winner.

One Jones, two events was the theme on Saturday. After taking her unbeaten sequence to 31 individual contests, winning the long jump, the American cruised to victory in the 100 metres. It was recalled three times before the race: enjoyed a clean start, but



Jones, of the United States, won the long jump and the 100 metres in Moscow

Jones was unfazed. As usual, Jones was not upright until almost 40 metres, after which she stretched away to record 10.83sec. None of her challengers managed under 11sec, yet they included Zhanna Pintusevich, the Ukrainian, who finished within 0.02sec of Jones at the world championships last year, and Irina Privalova,

the 200 metres European champion. The performance of Jones served only to underline how the margin between her and others is growing. She picked up \$633,000 in prize-money and jackpot money, but she wants to be judged on gold medals. A former basketball player, Jones's slam dunk is planned

for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where she will seek five gold medals, three individual and two from the relays. She could probably win five at the world championships in Seville next year, but will limit herself to four. Why spoil the effect for the Olympics? Unlike Bronson, she knows the value of pure judgement.

SAILING

Coutts's headsail decision pays off

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN PORTO CERVO, SARDINIA

THE Rolex Swan World Cup came to an action-packed finale on Saturday with the 82-strong fleet beating into the beginnings of a full-blown mistral blowing down the Sardinian coast. In an incident-filled fifth and final race, Russell Coutts, a former America's Cup winner, at the wheel of *Innovation 5*, produced another consistent performance to secure a championship victory.

The race officers failed to set a course with a true downwind leg — but the crews had plenty on their hands as they set off into a 22-30 knot wind through the islands. One of the early casualties was Theo Kinsbergen's Swan 66, *Defiance*, which was in the hunt for a top-three overall place until it lost its headsail 20 minutes into the race.

While others, including Adam Gosling's 651, *Yes!*, experienced similar problems, Coutts and his crew on the Swan 60 got away smoothly and were headed only by Irvine Laidlaw's *Highland Fling* at the first turning mark. With the breeze on the borderline between a No 2 headsail and a No 3, Coutts took the calculated risk of going for the former and it paid off. "The decision to start with the No 2 was the right move — it got us out and clear,

whereas a No 3 would have left us in the pack," he said.

Later, Coutts was the first in the fleet to call for a spinnaker as *Innovation 5* led the chase behind *Fling*. It was another good move, enabling Coutts to pick up valuable time on the way to the Monaci Rocks and secure second place. "In hindsight, I was worried that we didn't put it up early enough," he said afterwards.

Innovation also numbered among its crew Marcel van Triest, the Dutch Whitbread navigator, and Chris Mason, of Britain. The team were the most consistent in the fleet, finishing second on Saturday to add to two thirds, a fifth and a thirteenth.

Second overall was Loris Vaccari's Swan 46, *Eurosis*, with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy's 56, *Noonmark*. VI, third. Among the other British boats, Stephen Fein's 48, *Full Petal*, slipped to eighth. Buckingham's *Ngoni* was ninth with *Yes!* eleventh and Keith Miller's *Crackerjack* sixteenth.

Ben Ainslie's phenomenal success in Lasers continued on Saturday when he recaptured the European championship that he first won in 1996. Sailing in Austria, Ainslie won four of the nine races and finished seven points ahead of Karl Suneson, of Sweden.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Nick-off 7.30 unless stated

The Football Conference

Hednesford v Northwich (7.45) ...

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division

Chesham v Chesham (7.45)

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: League Cup Preliminary Round

Purfleet v Oxford City (8.0)

UNBOND CUP: First round

Ashton United v Truro

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division

Reading v Worcester

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division

Chesham v Chesham

OTHER SPORT

CRICKET: Ash Trophy (one day) Lord's

Final: Minor Counties Championship

Final

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v Southampton (7.45)

Swindon v Nottingham Forest (7.45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division

Barnley v Northwich (7.45)

Stockport v Bury (7.45)

Crewe v Crystal Palace (7.45)

Walsall v Walsall (7.45)

Port Vale v Wolverhampton (7.45)

Queens Park Rangers v Tranmere (7.45)

Sheff Wed v Grimsby (7.45)

Sunderland v Bristol City (7.45)

West Bromwich v Bolton (7.45)

Second division: Blackpool v Notts

Fulham v Scunthorpe (7.45)

Gillingham v Northampton (7.45)

Manchester City v Burnley (7.45)

Millwall v Luton (7.45)

Sheff Wed v Luton (7.45)

Walsall v Walsall (7.45)

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World Cup cause for concern among counties

The World Cup, by definition, will attract the best cricketers in the land to England next season. The competition also leaves the counties facing a dilemma of their own making. Having overturned what appeared an entirely sensible decision to impose a moratorium on overseas players for a year, they must now decide how — or if — to fill those positions.

According to a provisional fixture list produced by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for next season, by the time the World Cup finishes on June 20, ten out of 20 championship slots and ten of 23 for the new National League will already have been used. Counties have three options. They can either take somebody after the competition for what is effectively half the season, sign a player who is not involved — either retired from the international game or not deemed worthy of selection — for the full summer, or simply back the talent of their English players and not bother.

The issue of recruitment is complicated further because Australia, whose batsmen are considered to be among the most reliable signings, have commitments in Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka beginning in mid-August. The Sahara Cup in Canada involves India and Pakistan in September, while training camps are being convened at increasingly short notice by more and more countries. Yet, even with so many potential problems, it appears unlikely that any of the 18 counties will be bold enough to go without. As one chief executive said: "We cannot afford to go out on a limb in case it backfires and leaves us open to criticism."

Sussex, with Michael Bevan, Worcestershire (Tom Moody) and Nottinghamshire (Paul Strang) will retain their present overseas players regardless of participation in the World Cup. Warwickshire are prepared to welcome back Allan Donald for half of the campaign. Others are taking a different approach. Yorkshire

RICHARD HOBSON



Championship Commentary

have signed Greg Blewett as a stop-gap for Darren Lehmann, who returns in 2000. Derbyshire have reopened negotiations with Michael Slater but have asked for a letter from the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) outlining the player's availability. Ironically, they only turned to Slater when they failed to receive such a guarantee from the Pakistan authorities when they wanted Saeed Anwar.

Lancashire may demand something similar from Sri Lanka if they decide to pursue Muttiah Muralitharan. Unlikely as it sounds, Sri Lanka are understood to be prepared to give Muralitharan dispensation to miss the build-up to the Australia series.

Gloucestershire have offered Courtney Walsh a two-year contract, but with the proviso that he misses the World Cup. Walsh has been among the best of all overseas players but Gloucestershire say that, even in his case, they cannot afford to take a gamble. Walsh has been told to make a decision within the next fortnight.

Durham can be as satisfied as any county at this stage. David Boon, the captain, has proved a successful signing since ending his test career. Mark Taylor, his fellow Australian and a proven batsman and captain, is unlikely to figure in the World Cup and looks ideally qualified to fill the vacancy at Northamptonshire.

CRICKET: FINE ALL-ROUND DISPLAY FROM SUCH FAILS TO PREVENT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VICTORY

Essex title hopes slipping away

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss; Nottinghamshire 4pts) beat Essex by 51 runs

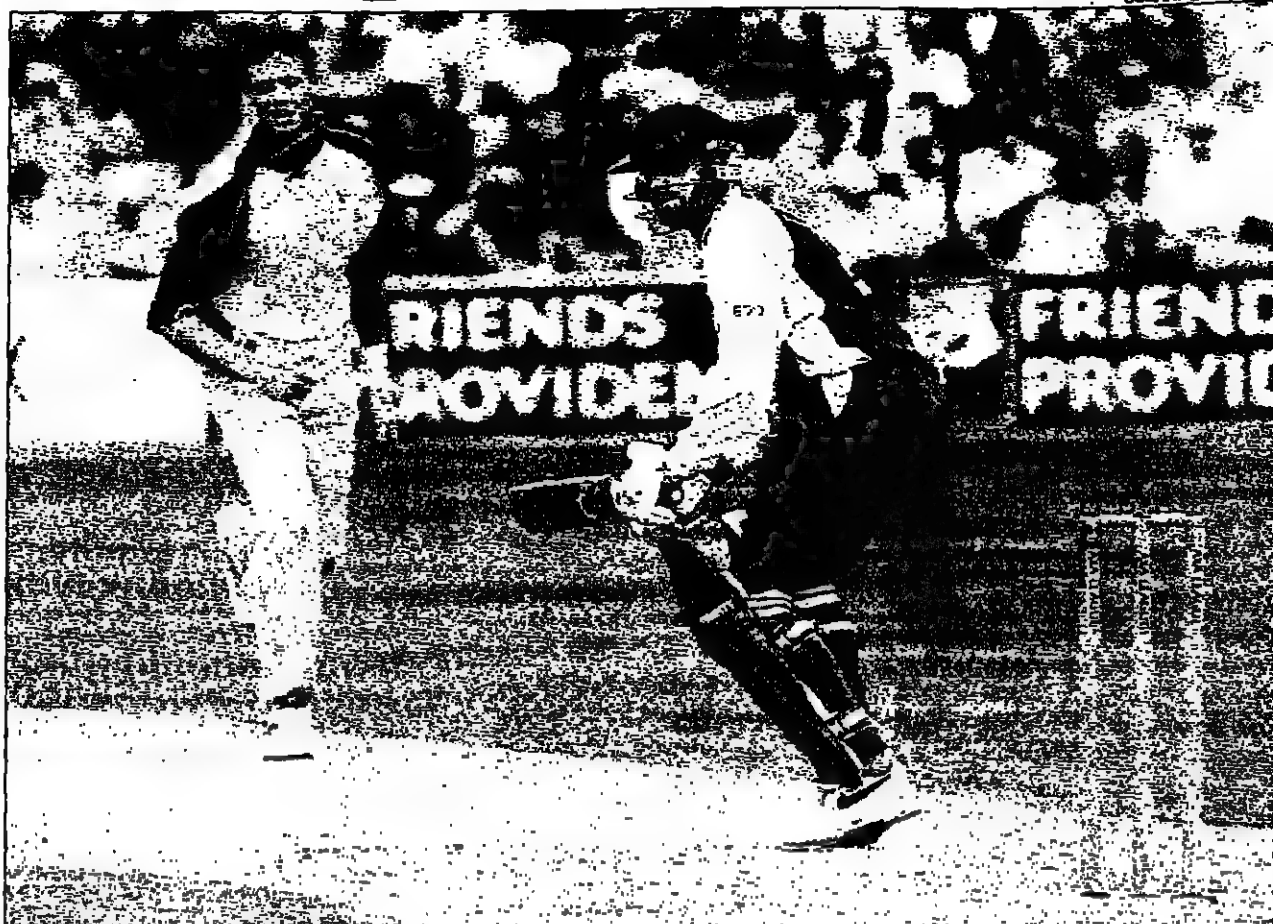
ESSEX had to beat Nottinghamshire yesterday to retain anything other than a flimsy hope of winning the Axa League for a fourth time. That they did not means that Lancashire require a victory, a tie or merely an abandonment from their match against Hampshire at Old Trafford today to become champions.

On a pitch that was unexpectedly slow, Essex, who needed 193 to win, lost nine wickets for 89. A rather uneventful match was much enlivened by an unbroken

TABLE

	P	W	L	T	N	R	Pts
Lancashire (3)	15	10	2	0	3	16	11.00
Essex (7)	16	9	4	1	2	42	5.63
Warwick (11)	16	8	5	0	3	38	4.27
Leics (4)	16	8	6	0	2	38	12.36
Hampshire (15)	15	8	6	0	1	34	1.73
Yorkshire (10)	16	8	7	0	1	34	2.40
Kent (2)	16	7	6	0	3	34	8.63
Notts (12)	16	7	7	1	1	32	0.67
Gloucestershire (16)	16	7	7	0	2	32	2.80
Glouce (11)	16	6	6	0	4	32	0.41
Worce (9)	16	6	6	1	3	32	5.12
Somerset (8)	16	6	7	1	2	30	0.41
Derbyshire (14)	16	6	7	0	3	30	0.51
Sussex (18)	16	6	8	0	2	28	1.03
Glamorgan (13)	16	6	8	0	2	28	1.15
Northants (5)	16	5	7	1	3	28	0.11
Durham (17)	16	4	8	1	3	24	0.01
Surrey (15)	16	2	12	0	2	12	2.24

(Last year's positions in brackets)



Tolley helps to bat Nottinghamshire into a winning position against Essex at Chelmsford in the Axa League

authority on the county, felt some years ago that a lean period would result in the kinds of seismic upheaval that bedevilled Yorkshire. It is as well for them that they won the Benson and Hedges Cup earlier this summer.

Gooch, of course, is irreplaceable. Many supporters will be aware that they have been spoiled down the years. In the absence of Hussain, who had a double hernia

operation last Friday — he will be fit in time for England's tour of Australia — one or other of Stuart Law and Irani needed to come up with a positive innings. This did not occur. Indeed, nobody other than the last-wicket pair managed more than the odd blow of defiance. The crowd began to drift away before the end, fond as they are of Such, who hitherto had not scored a run in this competition all season.

Law, who has not been selected for the Australia party for the Commonwealth Games, was caught at mid-wicket, trying to turn Evans through the gap between that fielder and square leg. Prichard skied an attempted hook back to Franks. Peters was taken at slip, driving at the same bowler, and Robinson was bowled looking to take the attack to Tolley. Danny Law and Grayson went in

successive balls to Bates. Irani swung Oram for six, drove him for four and, the following ball, was leg before on the front foot.

Hyam, who has replaced Rollins behind the stumps, drove Downman feebly to mid-on. Other than a few late bluffs from Cowan, that was more or less that. His partnership with Such was the highest of the innings and by some way the most entertaining. Franks finished with three wickets and Essex in a state of perplexity.

Yet Nottinghamshire's innings had been pretty featureless. The pitch did not help. Archer made an unbeaten half century that included, unusually, no fours but two sixes off Grayson. Johnson, who has scored more runs in the Axa League than any batsman other than Mal Loye this summer, contributed 31.

The total seemed insufficient, but all Essex had to celebrate was the bowling of Such, who returned figures of 8-2-18-1. Very soon he should be starring again Down Under.

Holloake lifts Surrey gloom

THE OVAL (Kent won toss; Surrey 4pts) beat Kent by 41 runs

JUST as Surrey's ignominious Axa League season seemed destined to sink to the lowest of realms, their captain, Adam Holloake, produced a fine all-round performance to carry the hosts to their first Sunday win at The Oval (Rupert Cox writes). Their 41-run victory over Kent — a second win of

the season — takes Surrey clear of Durham's record. In 1996, when they managed one victory and a mere six points.

On a mottled, two-paced wicket that stifled strokeplay, batsmen were forced to graft for their runs. John Batty, the Surrey wicketkeeper, passed 35 as he coaxed a target in excess of 4½ an over.

As Kent wickets tumbled at regular intervals, Holloake's dismissal of Carl Hooper, with a classic leg-cutter, tilted

the balance. His four for 18, ably supported by three for 36 from Michael Bell, allowed Surrey to overrun Kent and they were humbled with 53 overs to spare.

Surrey will also have gained heart from the debut of Carl Greenidge, a seamer and 21-year-old son of Gordon, who exhibited enough potential to suggest he will have a future in the game, despite seven wicketless

overs.

Martin-Jenkins completed a good day's work by striking 44 off 49 balls, including six crisp boundaries, as he and Rajesh Rao put on 63 for the first wicket. A mini-slump saw them lose four wickets for six runs in three overs, but Keith Newell and James Carpenter led Sussex home.

Yorkshire's lights go out as Sussex romp home

BY BARNEY SPENDER

HOVE (Yorkshire won toss; Sussex 4pts) beat Yorkshire by six wickets

A FORTNIGHT ago, when Yorkshire's batsmen crumbled to a dismal 81 all out against Lancashire in the Axa League, they were at least able to blame the vagaries of playing under lights. There were no such excuses yesterday, however, as they slumped to 89 all out to allow Sussex the most straightforward of wins.

The sea was fretting enough to assist the likes of Robin Martin-Jenkins, who had a good all-round match. But the Yorkshire batsmen showed an uncharacteristic lack of grit after choosing to bat first and Sussex romped home with 16 overs to spare.

The consolation for Yorkshire is that they are still fairly certain to finish in the top nine and qualify for the first division next season. Mathematically, Sussex also have a slim chance of making the cut.

Yorkshire's problems began in the third over when Craig White played on to Martin-Jenkins. Matthew Wood was bowled by Kirtley in the next over and the white rose was quickly replaced by the white flag as the remaining batsmen surrendered meekly.

Martin-Jenkins, who bowled Sussex to victory in their championship match against Glamorgan last week, added the wicket of Michael Vaughan to claim two for 12 from his eight overs.

Gavin Hamilton was the only batsman to show any staying power, but as he half-threatened to take Yorkshire beyond the 100-mark, Kirtley wrapped up the innings by removing Ian Fisher and Hoggard off successive deliveries and Ian Hutechinson in his next over.

Martin-Jenkins completed a good day's work by striking 44 off 49 balls, including six crisp boundaries, as he and Rajesh Rao put on 63 for the first wicket. A mini-slump saw them lose four wickets for six runs in three overs, but Keith Newell and James Carpenter led Sussex home.

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مَكَزًا مِنَ الْأَرْحَلِ

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Yield	PE
1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000

BANKS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000

BREWERS, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Yield	PE
1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000

BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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CONSTRUCTION

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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BANKS

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BREWERS, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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CHEMICALS

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CONSTRUCTION

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000	1.2500000000000000

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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MEDIA

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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MINING

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OIL & GAS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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RETAILERS, FOOD

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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RETAILERS, GENERAL

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OTHER FINANCIAL

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PHARMACEUTICALS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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PRINTING & PAPER

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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PROPERTY

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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TRANSPORT

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WATER

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ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT

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INDEX-LINKED

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UNLISTED

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BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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LONGS (over 15 years)

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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INDEX-LINKED

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UNLISTED

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BRITISH FUNDS

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LONGS (over 15 years)

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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BANKS

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BREWERS, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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CHEMICALS

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CONSTRUCTION

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DISTRIBUTORS

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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BANKS

Company	Price	Yield	PE
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BREWERS, PUBS & REST

100	15.4
75	48
50	21.5
25	5.8
...	...

100	15.4
75	48
50	21.5
25	5.8
...	...

100	15.4
75	48
50	21.5
25	5.8
...	...

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Hedge fund manager loses \$1bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

LEON COOPERMAN, the manager of the Omega hedge fund, one of America's biggest, has lost a quarter of his \$4 billion (£2.4 billion) net assets, joining an illustrious circle of the super-rich who have lost more than \$1 billion in the recent market plunge.

John Meriwether's \$4 billion Long-Term Capital Management has reported a 44 per cent drop in net assets. Mr Cooperman said that he and his team had invested big sums in hope of a recovery in emerging markets.

Wall Street has fared better, keeping losses far below \$1 billion. JP Morgan, the bank, disclosed Russian exposure of \$160 million and trading revenue of \$300 million in the quarter to August 27, against \$657 million in that quarter last year. The bank did not disclose the size of Russian losses. A spokesman said: "Providing overall trading revenues for the quarter so far is a lot more informative."

Morgan's profits are aided by income from merger advice and stock underwriting. In this year's second quarter, this was 31 per cent up, at \$334 million. Trading profits rose by 42 per cent, to \$920 million.

Insurer aims to grow from the start

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S second-biggest insurance group plans to use its launch this week as a platform to expand by making acquisitions across Europe.

Trading in Allied Zurich, the financial services group formed from the merger of BAT Industries' financial services division and Zurich Group, the Swiss insurer, will begin tomorrow.

The new financial services group, to be known as Zurich Financial Services, or ZFS, will be owned by two holding companies. One, Allied Zurich, will be listed on the London Stock Exchange, while Zurich Allied, controlling 57 per cent, will be based in Zurich.

ZFS expects rising demand for pensions and other long-term savings plans and thinks it should act now to make its name in European markets.

The remaining tobacco businesses of BAT Industries will trade as British American Tobacco on the London Stock Exchange and will be the world's third-biggest tobacco group. Both London-quoted compa-

nies are expected to join the FTSE 100 index.

Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, currently in a division of BAT known as British American Financial Services, will be part of the Swiss-based group.

Threadneedle Asset Management, BAT's fund management arm, will be merged with the US-based Scudder Kemper business of Zurich.

Zurich Group is expected to restructure its asset management operations after the merger and will use London as a platform for expansion.

Zurich Re London is being sold to managers backed by Candover, a buyout specialist.

The merger received the go-ahead last week when a High Court judge cleared BAT's plan to split tobacco and financial services. US medical insurers had argued that they might lose out if the new smaller tobacco company could not pay for treating sick smokers if it lost any legal action.

The combined group will now manage assets of \$375 billion (£225 billion).



KPMG's new advertising campaign will concentrate on the benefits of clarity in an age of tangled technology

KPMG launches \$60m campaign

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

KPMG, the accountancy group, is to launch a \$60 million (£38 million) international advertising campaign in an effort to change its image and build up its advisory business after it failed to merge with rival Ernst & Young.

The campaign will feature

the slogan "KPMG — It's time for clarity". Advertisements will be shown on specialist television channels such as CNN International, BBC World and Star TV as well as in international magazines and on posters at airports.

The slogan is claimed to re-

spond to surveys which showed that top business customers were snowed under with information and wanted clear, practical "single sheet" advice. But it could also apply to KPMG itself.

The group's perceived lack of a coherent international

structure was one of the reasons given for E&Y pulling out of a merger. The campaign, which will be supported by national advertising on the same theme for everything from recruitment to new services, will "emphasise the global integration of KPMG as one firm".

Vickers to consider site closure

Vickers is understood to be considering over the next three weeks whether to close one of its two tank factories, unless it receives more orders.

The group employs about 600 people in Newcastle and 500 in Leeds, which is seen as more vulnerable.

Both factories are involved in production of the Challenger 2 tank.

Life looks at links
Brian Williamson, the new chairman of Life, is still considering possible links with other exchanges, including the London Stock Exchange, the derivatives exchange said yesterday.

Smiths in talks

Smiths Industries is negotiating the purchase of Biochem International, a US maker of non-invasive monitoring equipment, for \$83 million (£50 million).

IBM software

In our story on CWC's £18 billion outsourcing deal with IBM on September 3, we over-stated the fall in the latter's software division. In 1997, worldwide revenue from IBM software fell by 1.6 per cent. For the most recent quarter, to June this year, software revenue rose by 5 per cent.

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at what's
happening
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Foresight and the case for lower rates

So far it has been easy. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets this week in the most difficult circumstances since its inception. Although some commentators (including this one) opposed the last rate rise and have openly argued the case for lower rates, until recently this has seemed a forlorn hope. But now the argument for rate reductions looks much stronger. Will the MPC oblige?

It is widely believed that as the slowdown in manufacturing spreads throughout the economy, lower interest rates will be inevitable. Yet this does not come to grips with the fundamental economics.

There is a view in the Bank that the economy may be operating well below the level of unemployment at which inflation accelerates (known to the cognoscenti as the NAIRU). Accordingly, even if the economy slows decisively, the level of economic activity may still be too high and the level of unemployment too low. In this case it may take a "considerable period of below-trend growth" — code for recession — to bring the economy back to where the Bank thinks it should be to ensure that the inflation target is met.

While this view prevails, the mere emergence of economic slowdown will not be enough to persuade the Bank to reduce rates.

This approach would be all very well if we had a clear idea of what the critical level of unemployment (the NAIRU) is. But we don't. There is also the not inconsiderable difficulty of forecasting the likely course of aggregate demand. The Bank's inflation reports make it seem as though this is a mere technical difficulty, aptly captured in the probability ranges in which the Bank's views are cast — known in the City as the "rivers of blood" charts, after the many shades of red shown cascading across the page into the future.

According to this approach, there is an X per cent probability of inflation being Y per cent in two years' time, and a whole range of probabilities attached to other possible outcomes. And these probabilities are not only knowable in principle but are actually known to the Bank. Funny that. In 1929, what was the probability of the Great Depression? Was it a 10 per cent chance in two years' time but a 20 per cent chance in three years' time, or vice versa? If only we had had the Bank's *Inflation Report* at the time to tell us.

This need to predict the future arises, of course, from the desire to influence it. Because of the lags between changes in interest rates and the effects on inflation, interest rate changes have to be pre-emptive.

It is no use waiting until the dreaded event is upon you. By that stage it is too late. This has been the justification for the repeated increases in interest rates over the past year.

But will the MPC be just as

forward-looking now? Somehow, I doubt it. Most members of the MPC were scarred by the experience of the 1970s. The lessons learned then, and again in the late 1980s, have been burned into them: inflation is an ever-present danger; beware reacting to pressures for lower rates from the exchange market or the stock market; inflation will come back and hit you in the end.

These are people who will take a lot of persuading that inflation is set to fall, never mind accepting that the really big danger is not a resurgence of inflation but the reappearance of deflation for the first time since the 1930s. Accordingly, despite the rhetoric about being forward-looking and pre-emptive, when it comes to cutting rates, they are likely to be slow and reactive.

This argument is even stronger when applied to the ECB, still trying to coat the euro with Teutonic anti-inflationary credibility when Europe is already hovering on the brink of falling prices.

What should the Bank do now? On the one side there are the internal inflation forecasts, complete with probability ranges. On the other, amid the solid evidence of substantial



ROGER BOOTLE

economic slowdown domestically and the alarming danger signs of global financial and economic crisis, there is the chance that these are way off beam.

I know where I would put my money. I would vote for an immediate reduction in interest rates. This does not mean, though, that this is what I think the MPC will do. In my view, the money markets are currently over-estimating the scope for interest rates to fall in the near term.

By contrast, they are under-estimating the scope for them to fall in the medium term. Once it has become abundantly clear that the inflation danger is nugatory, quite apart from the economic imperatives, there will be powerful political pressures on the MPC to cut interest rates substantially.

Central bank independence is all the rage now primarily because it is widely believed that politicians manage monetary policy badly. Specifically, they are prone to increase interest rates only reluctantly, which imparts an inflationary bias. That was the lesson of the 1960s and 1970s.

But there is another sort of bias, the one which made political control of interest rates once respectable and which underpinned the nationalisation of the Bank of England in 1946. Central bankers are inclined to be slow to reduce interest rates and are too readily in the thrall of conventional opinion in the financial markets.

That was the lesson of the 1920s and 1930s. It suggested a conclusion which, in the recent headlong rush for "credibility" at all costs, has been obscured — at times of real crisis monetary policy is too important to be left to central bankers.

THE FACTS

THE BOARD

America's DLJ to retail broking

مركز من الأصول

CORPORATE PROFILE: Billiton



Watching and waiting: Brian Gilbertson, the chairman, top right, is now in the mood to invest, while investors await news about a fresh strategy for Billiton operations, such as ferro-metals, top left; a pelletising plant in South Africa, bottom right; and one of Ingwe's South African collieries

THE FACTS

June 1997 figures for Billiton showed turnover of \$5.3 billion, net income of \$537 million and net assets of \$3.9 billion. The company's activities include: bauxite mining and aluminium production; titanium mineral mining; nickel mining, coalmining; ferro-alloys and steel.

THE BOARD

Brian Gilbertson, aged 54, is chairman and chief executive. He is also a director of Engen and the South African Reserve Bank.

Michael Davis, 40, is chief financial officer. He joined Gencor in 1994 from Eskom, the South African electricity group, of which he was executive director.

Steven Kessler, 47, is director in charge of base metals and new business. He joined Billiton in October 1997. He was formerly chief executive of Pacific Nickel in the Philippines and before that was with Rossing Uranium in Namibia and with Escondido in Chile.

David Munro, 43, is director in charge of aluminium and marketing. He joined Gencor in 1981 and was appointed managing director of Billiton in 1994.

Miklos Salamon, 43, is director in charge of steel and ferro-alloys, nickel and titanium minerals. He is also chairman of Samancor and was previously managing director of Ingwe Coal.

There are six non-executive directors. David Brink, 59, is also executive chairman of Murray & Roberts, chairman of Unitrans and deputy chairman of ABSA Bank.

Cornelius Herkströter, 60, was chairman of the committee of managing directors of Royal/Dutch Shell. Mr Herkströter was previously a director of Billiton, before its acquisition by the Shell group. John Jackson, 69, is chairman of Ladbroke, Celtech and Xenova and is also a director of WPP.

Derek Keys, 67, was a Gencor director from 1994 to 1997 after being South Africa's finance minister.

Lord Rennick of Clifton, 60, a former British ambassador, is a director of Robert Fleming, British Airways, Canal Plus and Liberty International and is chairman of Fluor Daniel.

Mathys Visser, 44, is on the board of Rembrandt Group, Malbak and Rothmans International.

Brian Gilbertson has called the market absolutely right, but foresight has won the South African chairman of Billiton few friends in London. Having raised a huge bundle of money a year ago by selling shares, Billiton has been watching and waiting while commodity prices collapsed. Mr Gilbertson now thinks metals have reached their low ebb and is in the mood to invest.

An ability to sell high and buy low would normally warrant superstar status, but the City's fund managers are, frankly, irritated. Many bought shares at 220p when Billiton floated on the London stock market a year ago, only to see them decline to a low point of 103p last week.

Not only have the sheep-like fund managers been reminded that they failed to spot a market peak but they have had their noses rubbed in it, watching Mr Gilbertson and his colleagues sit on the cash. Billiton's bosses, although smarting from criticism, are unrepentant.

Part of the problem has been South African funds, recently liberated from foreign investment restrictions, swapping their Billiton stock for US and European shares. A botched placing in May by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson of a stake held by Sanlam, the South African insurer, did not help. Kleinwort ended up with some 50 million shares, acquired at 158p. Recent rumours suggest that they have finally sold the stake, crystallising a large loss.

The share issue in July last year yielded £1 billion and Billiton raised another billion in a loan facility.

Mr Gilbertson insists that the company examines every opportunity. "We have an M&A team which comes to the board with ideas. We have said no, not just yet, to every proposal and each time we were right," he says.

The mood was a touch nervous at Billiton's Trafalgar Square headquarters last week in preparation for today's annual results announcement. The profits will be unimpressive: the company has steered the market towards a figure of about \$475 million (£280 million). However, investors will be looking hard for news about strategy, acquisitions and a promised share buyback.

Billiton has so far received a chilly reception in London: it was inept in handling investor and press relations at the time

of the flotation and seems bemused by the level of disclosure expected of it. Integrity Works, the consultancy, reckons that the company lacks a succinct statement of business principles. The company responds that it has not had time.

This contrasts with its reputation back in South Africa where the management have star status. Mr Gilbertson is an establishment figure who boasts a seat on the board of South Africa's Reserve Bank and last week resigned from the board of Gencor, the gold mining group from which Billiton was demerged more than a year ago.

The creation of Billiton is an extraordinary tale and does much to justify Mr Gilbertson's reputation, both here and at home. He took over the reins at Gencor in 1992: it was then a stodgy South African conglomerate with interests in

oil and paper as well as gold, platinum and coal mining. His strategy was to unbuckle the various interests, ending up with a focused mining group but stuck in a troubled South Africa.

The big opportunity came when Shell decided to sell its

mining and metals arm. Billiton. The oil company, too, was refocusing on its core business and the metals operation was chalking up losses. Russian smelters were dumping aluminium and the price was in freefall. Mr Gilbertson reckoned that it had fallen far

enough, but Billiton was still a big mouthful, \$2 billion of assets, and Gencor had just \$300 million offshore to play with. Banks were reluctant to touch Billiton, which was made up of a collection of stakes in joint ventures, so Gilbertson persuaded Shell to subscribe to a \$300 million bond issue: the seller financed the buyer.

No sooner was the deal signed and sealed than the aluminium producing countries agreed to cut output. The aluminium price soared and Gencor quickly paid back Shell.

For a South African management, a London listing was seen as a seat on a larger stage, but since the share issue, investors wonder whether Billiton has really severed its link with Johannesburg. Investments have been focused on Southern Africa: the \$3 billion Mozal project to

build a new aluminium smelter in Mozambique; and a \$289 million bid for the outstanding minority share in Ingwe Coal. The criticism is probably unfair: Mr Gilbertson is at heart an opportunist and the rationale for the Ingwe bid is largely price and the rapidly depreciating South African rand which is turning a number of Johannesburg-listed companies into easy bid targets.

Liberty Life, the South African institution, originally balked at accepting the 25 rand-per-share offer, which also reflected the hugely depressed world price for steel coal. However, Liberty is believed to have given up its lone protest and the takeover should go through smoothly.

That strategy could be exploited further. Prior to its flotation Billiton merged its nickel interests with QNI, the Australian mining company,

leaving Billiton with 55 per cent. The fall in the Australian dollar makes the minority a smaller and potentially interesting mouthful. Australia has rules on foreign ownership, but Mr Gilbertson points out that Billiton has been in Australia for some time.

What the market wants to hear is news of a big sexy deal at the bottom of the market that will mop up a couple of billion dollars of spare cash and deliver super earnings growth as metal prices recover. In effect, they want Mr Gilbertson to repeat the original Billiton deal.

If it isn't happening, it is not for want of trying. Billiton's chief rival, Rio Tinto is also scouring the market as its share price tumbles but has so far failed to find a home for its free cashflow. Billiton's focus has been privatisation, a potentially rich seam given that they imply a keen seller of assets that are probably over-manned and poorly managed. Russell Skirrow, of Merrill Lynch, reckons that tumbling financial markets could still bring opportunities. Privatisations have been the preferred route, but the more risky path that they may now wish to try is the hostile bid.

Billiton's bosses are unlikely to shy away from battle. What they may lack in social skills in dealing with snooty City institutions, they more than make up in entrepreneurial zeal.

The chairman and the finance director are widely known among the analytical fraternity as the top and bottom half of a tyrannosaur rex. Mick Davis, the financial supremo, is generally thought to be the bottom half, having the greater girth. Together, they make the ultimate predator, said one Billiton watcher.

CARL MORTSHED

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression... 4/10
Fat cat quotient... 5/10
Financial record... 5/10
Share performance... 1/10
Attitude to employees... 7/10
Strength of brand... 5/10
Innovation... 9/10
Annual report... 4/10
City star rating... 5/10
Future prospects... 8/10

Total... 53/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Insignia Works. The fat cat quotient, in which best boardroom food practices score highest, is provided by "Crab Consulting".

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The market has not taken to the company, people have not warmed to them. There are worries that they are going to fall out of the FTSE 100. The share buy-back and buy-in of the minority stakes is a good idea, but the question is when are they going to spend the money."

David Bird, ABN Amro

"We think it is one of the cheapest quality mining stocks in the world. Metal prices are now going in the right direction. It would have been easy after the issue to spend all the money, but it would have been wrong to do so."

Nick Hatch, Robert Fleming

"People normally buy [the shares] for growth, for capital gain, but they are now so cheap they are almost yield stocks. We like the long-term outlook and at this price you can almost cover your costs with the dividend."

Russell Skirrow, Merrill Lynch

America's DLJ to open UK retail broking arm

DONALDSON, Lufkin & Jenrette, the US investment bank, is building a retail broking operation in Britain and intends to have \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) under management by the end of the year (Richard Miles writes).

Thomas Dicker, managing director of DLJ International's investment services group, has already recruited more than 50 staff for the operation, including 23 consultants who will concentrate on providing advice to wealthy individuals.

Mr Dicker aims to imitate the success of DLJ's retail operation in America, where investors with capital of \$5 million or above are given a personal service, while the mass market is served by DLJ Direct, a telephone and internet operation.

The UK operation will also package and fund management products from AXA, the French insurer which is DLJ's ultimate parent through its holding in Equitable, the US insurer.

Scotia warning on breast-pain drug

BY PAUL DURMAN

A DRUG taken by women to alleviate breast pain has been shown to be no better than a placebo in the most recent trial by Scotia Holdings, the drug development company.

Scotia warned the UK's Medicines Control Agency (MCA) of its findings about Efamast last month. Searle, the US-owned pharmaceuticals company that markets the drug in the UK, is conducting a full analysis of the trial to see whether they show the drug to be ineffective.

Efamast was one of the first

of the fat-based pharmaceuticals that were intended to provide the foundations for Scotia's growth. However, Scotia has found it difficult to convince regulators that it has demonstrated the medical effectiveness of its products. Scotia shares have lost more than two thirds of their value since Tarabatic, a treatment for neuropathy, was turned down by the MCA last year.

The troubling results on Efamast came from an intended 500-patient trial that was begun in 1994 in the hope of

securing licences to market the drug outside the UK.

Rob Dow, Scotia's chief executive, said the poorly conducted study, produced by the confusing result that patients taking the placebo control responded as well as those who received the active compound of Efamast. He said: "The placebo response goes well beyond that seen in other studies."

Scotia has still to come up with an explanation. One possibility is that women suffering experienced a psy-

chological benefit that was unconnected with any drug effect of Efamast.

Dr Dow took advice from Scotia's lawyers and financial advisers to see whether the problems with Efamast were price-sensitive and should be released to the market. Scotia took the view that an announcement would have created "inappropriate uncertainty" because it was not able to explain its findings.

Dr Dow pointed out that three earlier studies had shown Efamast to work.

Hillsdown poised to give details of split

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the troubled food group, is expected to use publication of interim results tomorrow as a chance to confirm that it intends to split itself into three quoted companies and sell assets so as to return cash to shareholders (Robert Cole writes).

The plan, outlined in the spring, was formed to increase shareholder value. It was put back on track after a £1.6 billion takeover attempt by Unigate, the dairy group, fell through this summer. The concrete plans will in-

clude float dates for Terra-nova, the name given to Hillsdown's cherished chilled foods side, and Fairview Homes, the housebuilder. They should be ready for floating in the second week of October. Little is expected to be said about Hillsdown's success in selling unwanted subsidiary companies.

Detailed demerger proposals may deflect attention from interim pre-tax profits expected to fall from £56 million last time to between £52 million and £54 million.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET															
1998	Low	High	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	1998	Low	High	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E
191	74%	18.20	1.20	120%	1	8.2	7.1	45	105	105	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
129	68%	13.00	1.00	100%	1	8.2	7.1	45	105	105	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
177	142%	9.24	0.24	147%	1	11.7	11.7	18	17%	17%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
271	180	30.20	3.00	147%	1	14.7	14.7	28	17%	17%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
265	225	38.20	3.80	147%	1	14.7	14.7	28	17%	17%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
67%	47%	6.45	0.65	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
6%	3%	2.70	0.27	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
4%	3%	10.70	1.07	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
102%	84%	11.00	1.10	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
205	133%	36.70	3.67	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
119	72%	22.74	2.27	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
119	72%	22.74	2.27	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
110%	82%	18.80	1.88	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
100	50%	6.83	0.68	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
48%	28%	68.00	6.80	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
76%	54%	6.36	0.64	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
68%	44%	11.00	1.10	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
184	124	49.80	4.98	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
208	164%	32.70	3.27	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
317%	175	27.80	2.78	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
109%	47%	18.20	1.82	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
109%	47%	18.20	1.82	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
117%	74%	14.00	1.40	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
50%	30%	5.66	0.57	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
44%	30%	1.75	0.18	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
67%	39%	12.40	1.24	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
156%	104%	2.81	0.28	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
325	235	14.70	1.47	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
105	65%	0.08	0.08	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
25%	15%	15.10	1.51	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
282	180	15.10	1.51	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
102%	102%	0.08	0.08	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
102%	102%	0.08	0.08	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
11%	3%	7.40	0.74	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
225	148	4.82	0.48	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
68	40%	1.87	0.19	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
19	8%	0.68	0.07	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
2%	0%	0.68	0.07	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
87%	40%	78.00	7.80	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
54%	30%	2.28	0.23	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
56	30%	3.06	0.31	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
19%	8%	61.50	6.15	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
134%	108%	30.50	3.05	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
135%	111%	22.90	2.29	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
106%	47%	11.00	1.10	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
144%	80%	11.00	1.10	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
115%	102%	88.50	8.85	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
122%	102%	4.00	0.40	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
113	85	14.80	1.48	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
28%	15%	24.20	2.42	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
382	142%	18.30	1.83	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
382	142%	18.30	1.83	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
46%	3%	3.12	0.31	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
15%	13%	2.55	0.26	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
153%	125%	2.36	0.24	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
231%	19%	10.40	1.04	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
257%	210	20.80	2.08	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2
400	192%	20.80	2.08	103%	1	10.3	10.3	150%	150%	150%	137.10	Presbury Group	4	10	58.2

Paul



The play also enjoyed taut direction and inventive camera work during the flashbacks of the anti-hero, Leo. These were our first clues that the gentle giant (another convincing psycho from David Morrissey, after tormented roles in *Holding On* and *Our Mutual Friend*) was a loony.

That was the trouble. It is too easy to make melodrama out of inexplicable manias. The play slipped from social realism into horror-comic Gothic, as we saw that Leo was "Mad! Mad, I tell you!" By the time he got that knitting needle through his eye I had come to realize that the

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6.00am 5 News and Sport (87541026)
7.00 WorldWide (r) (t) (1754200) 7.30 Milkshake! (5807216) 7.35 What-a-Mess! (1974837) 8.00 Hovekazo (9816804) 8.30 Dimpled Down Farm (r) (9011303) 9.00 The Great House Gam (r) (t) (5811674) 9.28 Russell Grant Postcards (8675842) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (t) (17515686) 10.20 Sunset Beach (r) (t) (4770571) 11.10 Love (t) (5336115)
12.00 5 News at Noon (t) (9819981) 12.30 Family Affairs (r) (t) (2228466) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (t) (1753571) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2227736) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (4629115) 2.30 Open House with Gloria Hunniford presents Angela Rippon (349810)
3.30 Lullaby of Broadway (1951) with Doris Day, Gene Nelson and Jessica Howard
Musical comedy about an English actress and her celebrity mother who he fallen on hard times. Directed by David Butler (222113)
5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Celebrity Houses For Sale (9349216)
6.00 100 Per Cent (4390397)
6.30 Family Affairs (t) (4381649)
7.00 5 News (t) (7030921)
7.30 Where the Bison Roam Wildlife documentary on the wood bison, who live beyond the Mackenzie River Canada (t) (4570539)
8.00 The House Doctor The team visit Ed Dulwich (t) (5275258)
8.30 Crime Report Topical magazine w/ John Taylor (5079656)
8.50 Red Sonja (1985) Sword-and-sorcery adventure with Brigitte Nielsen. Amc Schwarzenegger and Sendarah Bergmann. A warrior sets out to avenge the murder of her family by a megalomaniac queen. Directed by Richard Fleischer (25554485)
10.40 Dr Fox's Chart Update (6446571)
10.45 The Program (1983) with James Callaghan and Omar Epps. Drama about the dictatorial coach of an American college football team. Directed by Frank Tuttle (95654842)

John Elway, quarter-back for the Denver Broncos (12.50am)
12.50am NFL American Football — Live Coverage of the Denver Broncos v the New England Patriots (88141885)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4450175)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (4353205)

World 6.00 North Of Naples, South Of Rome 6.30 On Tour 7.00 On The Loose 7.30 Wildcat Africa 7.30 Summer Getaways 8.00

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RESULTS 43

Rio Tinto digs in amid tight world market

BUSINESS

ECONOMY 44

Roger Bootle on the MPC's toughest test



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

Markets at mercy of policy vacuum

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

WORLD stock markets are braced for another turbulent week with no clear sign yet of a co-ordinated policy response from the Group of Seven industrialised nations but just a hint that salvation may come from a cut in US interest rates.

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, who has been silent as the crisis in Russia has intensified, finally told an academic conference in California late on Friday that he now regarded the risks to the US economy as balanced. Fedwatchers pounced on his words as proof that the Fed no longer has a "bias" towards raising interest rates.

Mr Greenspan said: "It is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress."

In remarks suggestive that a cut in rates may be considered over the next few months as the threat of inflation recedes and growth slows down, he

said: "As dislocations abroad mount, feeding back on our financial markets, restraint is likely to intensify."

Hopes of lower rates, the Fed's chosen policy after the 1997 Wall Street crash, are becoming the focus of attention for investors rattled by the sharp slide in share prices. However, there is no firm evidence yet of any co-ordinated rate response within the G7.

Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, late last

week insisted that recent slides in stock markets were a healthy correction and said that a German rate cut now would be counterproductive.

The perception in Britain, too, is that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee is some way from considering a cut in base rates. A large majority of City economists expect the MPC to leave interest rates unchanged after its meeting this week.

Michael Saunders, UK economist with Salomon Smith Barney, said: "The dampening effects on household wealth and confidence of the slide in equity markets counts heavily against a hike, but the outlook for domestic demand is not so weak — compared with the slowdown which the MPC believes is necessary to cap price pressures — to justify a near-term ease."

Apart from longer-term hopes on interest rates, none of a number of high-level meetings over the weekend offered the markets anything new to bolster confidence. A meeting on Friday in San Francisco

between Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, and Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister, appeared to yield nothing concrete. After the talks, Mr Rubin said: "I'd like to hope that the kinds of discussions we've had will move things forward but ultimately what's going to matter is what Japan does."

European foreign ministers meeting in Salzburg issued a declaration on Russia which did not mention further financial aid and made no explicit reference to Russia's debts.

The G7 said on Saturday that top-level officials or deputies would gather in London this week but it emerged yesterday that the meeting is unlikely to take place until the weekend.

Finance ministers, although furiously discussing the Russian crisis with each other by telephone, will not be directly involved in the London meeting which is aimed at forming a detailed response to Russia at the level of officials which will then be put to finance ministers.

Orders worth more than \$10 billion (£6 billion) are expected to be announced at the Farnborough International Air Show which starts today (Christine Buckley writes). The airshow

will be the biggest so far staged. It will also be a critical point in the battle between Europe's aerospace companies and their US competitors. Airbus, the four-nation European consortium, is expected to announce a stream of orders worth up to \$2 billion to follow its deal to supply British Airways with short-haul jets which was agreed last month. Transatlantic daylight, page 46



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Russian provision tipped at EBRD

BY JANET BUSH

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is this week expected to announce heavy provisions for losses in Russia when it unveils its mid-year results.

Responding to speculation about its exposure to the Russian economic meltdown, the London-based bank said yesterday that it would include in its results

reference to an initial assessment of a possible impact of the recent events in Russia on the bank's portfolio.

The bank denied categorically that it would be writing off any of its investments in Russia and denied that it would need an injection of new capital.

Russia is by far the most important client of EBRD finance, accounting for 25 per cent of all its investments as of the end of last year. The latest figures

for July this year show that it has distributed 1.4 billion euros (£950 million) to projects in Russia but has committed itself to a further 2.7 billion euros, giving the bank a total exposure of some £2.8 billion.

It is believed that a significant proportion of EBRD lending has been to Russian banks given that, according to its 1997 annual report, a core element of its strategy in Russia has been to

strengthen local banking and financial institutions. In addition, as of the end of 1997, the EBRD had invested in five funds which invest directly in Russian companies and 11 Regional Venture Funds that provided new capital to help restructure privatised companies.

The Bank could not confirm yesterday when it expects to release its interim results but the best guess is in midweek.

Poor results set seal on corporate gloom

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

A WELTER of big company results out this week will show conclusively that growth in corporate profits is slowing.

Analysts are pessimistic about the signals that UK plc will deliver. Paul O'Connor, equity strategist at CSFB, said corporate earnings would "continue to be dreadful".

He added that average profits growth would struggle to meet 2 per cent. At the start of the year he had forecast that UK corporate earnings would rise by 4 per cent.

Bob Semple, of BT Alex Brown, said this week would bring more firms complaining about the impact of the Asian crisis and the continuing strength of sterling.

Philip Wolstencroft, UK equities strategist at Merrill Lynch, said: "People are expecting bad news and the chances are that those expectations will be fulfilled... Things are deteriorating more quickly than we thought."

The companies reporting this week operate in a broad range of industrial and service sectors. Included in the list are BTR and BBA, the engineers; Billiton, the resources group; Birmah Castrol, the oil company; United News and Media, owner of The Express; Norwich Union, the insurance group which demutualised last year and Coats Vytella, the textiles group which is in the throes of a demerger.

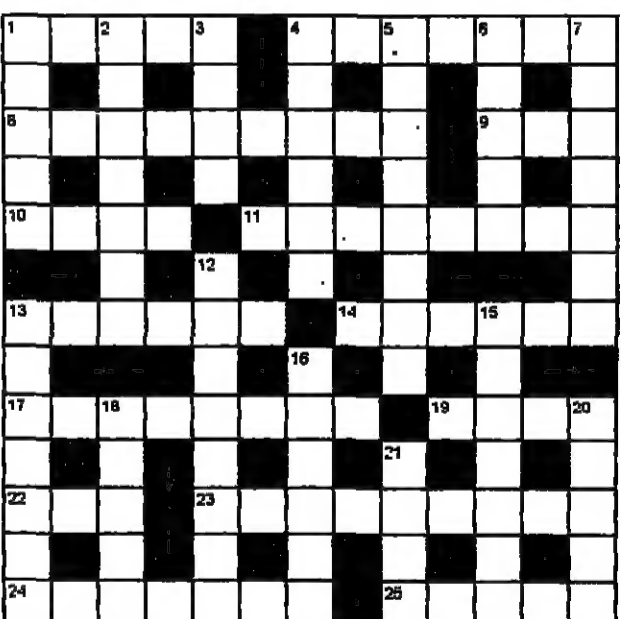
Professional equity market watchers cast doubt on whether the expected poor streak of results will hit share prices.

Mr Semple said: "Profits figures may make a difference for individual stocks but more is being asked about the general malaise in global markets. People are pondering whether this is the start of a full blooded bear market or whether we will see a bounce."

Mr O'Connor said that the stock market had already taken account of poorer profits expectations while Mr Wolstencroft said the condition of the bond markets meant share prices were well supported.

Companies, page 43

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1504

- ACROSS
1 Deltus's Great City;
11 Mozart's 31st (5)
14 A crab, a cheat (7)
15 Disagreeable, distasteful (9)
16 Soft roll (3)
17 Bitter drink (4)
18 Ninetens (8)
19 Business substance (6)
20 Innate: too closely related (6)
21 Rum cocktail (8)
22 House covering (4)
23 Resin for varnish: RAF rank (abbr.) (3)
24 Taken for granted (9)
25 Rice stock dish (7)
26 Maths: ring shape (5)
- DOWN
1 Sounding weight, line (5)
2 Treat considerably (7)
3 Except (4)
4 Livered servant (6)
5 Mortarless (wall) (3-5)
6 To defame (5)
7 Rested, placed (7)
8 Sulkily irritable (5)
9 Made in fitting segments (7)
10 Cook (7)
11 Twelfth Night duke (6)
12 Anvil bone (ear) (5)
13 Light-convergence point (5)
14 Discharge (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1503
ACROSS: 4 Dig 8 Route 9 Halve 10 Voter
11 Distend 12 Disagree 14 Weir 15 Lark 16 Oklahoma
20 Chasten 21 Demob 23 Niece 24 Nonagon 25 Peg
DOWN: 1 Proved 2 Runt 3 OB-rig 4 Dead reckoning
5 Ghost 6 Alter ego 7 Lender 13 Streamer 15 Lacuna
17 Aiding 18 Albino 19 Steep 22 Magi

- SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO SATURDAY HOLIDAY JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Bramble 5 Shortfall 10 Automation
11 Ratatouille 16 Oilskin 17 Workman 18 Hammer-toe
19 Grandfather 20 Hydro 21 Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep 22 Munn's word 23 Rousseau 27 Cassis
30 Wine-taster 32 Lenoir 33 Almshouse 36 Dacha
37 Anti-aircraft 39 Suppliant 41 Silently 42 Battleground
43 Piles 45 Arriviste 46 Ionian 48 Iterations 51 Timbre
53 Literate 54 Predecessor 57 Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse 61 Let up 62 Rear Admiral 63 Celebrant
64 Etching 65 Hands-on 66 Maiden overs 67 Spearhead
68 Dissenter 69 Takings
DOWN: 1 Bartholomew 2 Attempt 3 Better late than never 4 Equitable 5 Solve 6 Overgreedy 7 Trojan Horse
8 Alludes 9 Like a house on fire 10 Anne Hathaway
11 Thwarted 12 Marches 13 Timidness 14 Non compos mentis
22 Property 24 Monocular 26 Unnerved 28 A chip off the old block 29 Shoulder 31 Seamless 34 Unanimous
35 Paradise Regained 36 Distastefulness 38 Rotunda
40 Rude up 44 Semi-detached 47 Agent Orange 49 Screen tests 50 Speed limit 52 Moustache 55 Excellent
56 Prorogue 58 Happier 59 Osmosis 60 Phase in 63 Crier

3i survey finds drop in firms' confidence

BY CLARAN HUGHES

CONFIDENCE in the British economy among independent businesses has fallen heavily since July, according to 3i, the venture capital company, in a report published today.

The mood about the general business and political climate in 3i's Barometer Index has fallen to a level last seen in the depths of recession in 1991.

However, 3i also finds that companies remain optimistic about their own prospects. Brian Larcombe, chief executive of 3i, said that this was evidence that the economy is slowing down but not to the point of recession.

The survey showed that 71.2 per cent of companies believe that the economic climate has become less favourable for starting up new businesses. The last time that this question was answered so negatively was in September, 1992, just

after sterling left the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The survey also showed that non-manufacturing firms are now joining their manufacturing counterparts in reporting a strong downturn in the economy, echoing the results of other recent surveys. Nevertheless, manufacturing firms re-

main less optimistic than services companies.

Despite the slowdown, 54.6 per cent of companies surveyed still expect to employ more people by the end of 1998 than they did at the end of 1997. This is, though, a considerably lower proportion than 3i found in its previous survey.

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Football deal will get clubs out of corner

BY ROBERT COLE

THE PROSPECT of a takeover of Manchester United by BSkyB is likely to trigger a hunt to identify other acquisition candidates among football club companies. As a result, share prices of some football clubs whose parent companies' shares are listed on the Stock Exchange are likely to jump sharply when trading starts this morning.

Shares in Manchester United are likely to rise from the 159p price at which they closed on Friday to 200p or more. If suggestions that Manchester United as a whole will fetch £575 million are correct, United shares would be worth about 220p each, or 40 per cent more than on Friday evening.

Any price rises among football stocks will come as welcome relief for many investors, however. Most have suffered disappointing returns as worries circulated about the vulnerability of income streams.

Other football shares are

unlikely to rise as much as Manchester United, which is the most consistently successful both on the pitch and as a business. Less than half a dozen other teams are likely to feature in any European super-league, which alone could justify high financial ratings for football clubs. Of these, Arsenal is traded on the Olex junior exchange and Liverpool is a private company.

Analysts estimate that fully quoted shares in other football club companies could rise by 20 per cent. "I am sure the news will lead to some frenzied activity," said one.

Investor attention will quickly turn from Manchester United to Tottenham Hotspur, the company that owns the North London club. Rumours have been circulating for several weeks that Alan Sugar, the chairman and major shareholder who made his fortune from Amstrad personal computers, would like to sell up. A move on Manchester United

may provide a benchmark price at which a Spurs deal could be done.

Tottenham shares ended last week at 60p, only 19p above their low for 1998, but 27 per cent, or 16p, below their peak.

Beyond Manchester United and Spurs investor interest will focus on companies that own football clubs that play in the Premiership. Newcastle, Leicester City, Leeds Sporting — which owns Leeds United Football Club — and Aston Villa are all likely to find themselves under the stock market microscope.

Greg Dyke, the former managing director of London Weekend Television who became a multi-millionaire when LWT was sold to rival TV company Granada, is also likely to benefit financially if the Manchester United deal materialises. Mr Dyke was appointed a non-executive director of Manchester United a year ago, and has acquired shares.

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